


# **The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert**

**Authors' surnames beginning with**

**Cl-Co**



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Clair, Colin

1104 Mulvey Avenue,

Human Curiosities; London, New York, Toronto, Abelard-Schuman (1968); Index 183p.

Mainly devoted to giants and dwarfs, this historical summary touches also on armless wonders, fat men and feeders, professional strongmen, and human ancients, some of the facts of whose lives are interesting. Robert Hales, b. May, 1820, was exhibited as a giant by Lasky, was 7'6" tall; and on p. 42: "Hales seems to have tried his hand at mesmerism, for an advertisement of his states that "A variety of pleasing and instructive experiments will be exhibited at the Assembly Room, Craven Head Tavern, 98 Drury Lane, by Mr. Hale, Professor of Galvanism, every Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evening." There is little of interest to psychical researchers in the main part of the book.

Chapter 14, "Human Computers and Human Longevity" has a fairly lengthy summary of the lives of Jedidiah Buxton, b. March 20, 1707, buried March 5, 1772; and Zerah Colburn, b. September 1, 1804, d. ~~September 28, 1872~~ March 2, 1839; and George Parker Bidder, b. June 14, 1806, d. September 28, 1878. Bidder gave a lecture "On Mental Calculation" to the Institution of Civil Engineers on February 19, 1856, which was printed in the Minutes of the Transactions of the Institution.

Insofar as longevity is concerned, doubt is cast on the authenticity of excessive age.

Chapter 15 "The Enigmatic Career of the Chevalier D'Eon" outlines his life and declares that he died at 83 and an autopsy certified his body to be that of "a perfectly formed male".

This is an interesting book, which nevertheless seems to me to be minimal in emphasis of the human values involved. Even in the last chapter, where the author's sympathies are obviously involved, those factors which would humanize the Chevalier are subdued.

The index is of names only, and useless for any other clues to the contents of the book.





Claman, Julian

The Malediction; New York, E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.,  
1969 308p.

This is supposed to be a fictional portrayal of actual life of the rich on a yacht in the Mediterranean, where a modern "Sea Wolf" seeks to keep in his power a millionaire, a movie star and his two prostitute companions, his own son whom he has neglected and despises for the weakening influence of the boy's mother who has committed suicide after years of mental illness and who has tape-recorded a curse against him which is broadcast to all the ship when the father of a girl he has seduced has poisoned him fatally.

I have seldom read a novel which is so explicit in its description of the decadent pursuit of money and sexual pleasure, and power in personal relations. The title, and the incident which supports it, are almost irrelevant in the context of the story, because the culmination is merely a fulfilment of Everard Martin's self-seeking fate, almost inevitable even without the existence of the malediction.

It is difficult for me to believe that this is not an exaggerated and sensationalized account, but in view of what Snow depicts in New Lives for Old, it may be possible.



Clark, William A.

The Girl on the Volkswagen Floor; New York, Bantam Books  
(June, 1972), (1971, Clark), (1971, Harper & Row) 168p.

This is definitely the most astonishing true murder case I have ever read, told by a newspaper reporter involved from its beginning as an investigator and at one time placed by his newspaper on it as a full-time assignment.

A motiveless crime by an insane killer, it seems to me quite probable that it might never have been solved without the assistance of a clairvoyant named Norman Dodd. This book poses more questions than it answers; in fact, I think it may give rise to innumerable articles and books in the future: Dr. J. B. Rhine was a consultant in connection with Dodd's ESP powers, and although his conclusions were on the whole negative, I think only Clark's suspicions and doubts would influence an unbiased reader of his account against accepting Dodd's claims. The unanswered questions which should be investigated are, in fact, the only factors which cause me to suspend my own acceptance of his claims.

Clark found himself so shaken by his experience that he could not continue his job, and had to move away from his own home and surroundings and write this book. Although human beings and normal daily life are dealt with, starting from the first suggestion of consulting someone with ESP on page 56 of the book one gradually enters an abnormally strange world inhabited by people whose actions and motives are almost impossible to understand, as if they were alien to human ideas.

I have a feeling that Clark will not be allowed to drop the case with this book. Only he can answer some of the problems it poses, and whether he can answer them without exposing himself to actions for libel and slander, or otherwise laying himself open to legal charges for infringing the rights of others, I do not know.

It will be necessary for me to re-read this book fairly soon in order to reconsider with less emotion the implications of many of the things stated. Having finished the book less than an hour ago, I am still emotionally unsettled; the suspense and wonder aroused by it have not enabled me to review it objectively.

Clark probably did all that any person in his position could do, but there are so many leads to be followed in order to clarify various matters that only an official investigation at public expense is likely to result in any final answers.

This inconclusive feeling of mine is probably why I seldom read factual crime stories. Almost never do I feel that all the facts are disclosed, and the whole story known.



Clason, Clyde B.

"I Am Lucifer" Confessions of the Devil as Dictated to Clyde B. Clason;  
London, Hodder and Stoughton 1961. 9-255 p.p., including Bibliography.

This is the story of the age-old war between the arch-Rebel and his Creator - actually a history told as if it were fiction. Extremely well-written it is in effect a religious history from the viewpoint of the Devil. Not consistently narrated, the first half of the book is more personalized, the last half more impersonal.

The book is perhaps better classified as religious history than as fantastic fiction, but deserves a place in any good collection of the latter as an associational item.





Clason, George S.

The Babylon Course in Financial Success; Toronto, The  
Institution of Financial Education (1938) 5 Volumes; illus.

1. The Babylon Course in Financial Success: Instructions  
for Study 24p.
2. The Richest Man in Babylon tells his system 23p.
3. Out of the Ruins of Babylon: A Tale of Conquest 23p.
4. Seven Remedies for a Lean Purse: A Tale of Babylon 24p.
5. The Treasures of Babylon 23p.

This set is very attractively printed and bound, and is provided with a slip-case. It was apparently used by the Universal Life Assurance & Annuity Company as a promotional program, and I have one slip-case on which the Great-West Life Assurance Company sticker appears.

The system is based on the idea of saving one-tenth of income, using one-fifth to retire debts, and retaining seven-tenths for living expenses. It is strictly a thrift program, with a suggestion that those using it should leave to others better qualified the investment of those savings.

It is the kind of promotional program suitable for life insurance or savings and loan companies to encourage people to invest with them, and is presented in parable form as if derived from Babylonian tablets.

Although the principles are sound and sure, they would appeal only to the parsimonious.





Cleeve, Lucas

Counsels of the Night; London, T. Fisher Unwin, 1906 312p.

This novel of Virginia soon after the Civil War is so poorly conceived and written that I cannot understand why it was published unless the author, who wrote several other books, was a popular success among women. Certainly her writing would appeal to few men.

A family is disrupted because of suspicion that a father has committed the murder of a rival loved by his wife. Their son has dreams of the killing which his mother suspects but is unable to bring herself to confront her husband with. This example of the lack of communication between members of a family is so extremely exaggerated and improbable that it cannot be considered to be an example, even fictional, of veridical dreams, particularly since the husband is innocent, though secreting knowledge.

Several times I almost gave up reading this novel. It is an example of romantic melodrama so irrational as to be nearly unreadable for the modern mind.

Yet the publisher was a good one; the book is attractively bound with ornate cover and gold (not gilt) lettering.

I must try to avoid reading other books by this author.

Coalition for Reproductive Choice,  
Box 51, Station "L",  
Winnipeg, Man.  
R3H 0Z4.

Dear Choice Supporter:

You are invited to a Choice Celebration. We will celebrate the first anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision recognizing a woman's right to reproductive freedom. We will honour Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who fought with us to win this right.

A Choice Celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 1989, at the International Inn. A presentation to Dr. Morgentaler will be made at 8:00 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

We hope to accomplish two goals from this event. First, we intend to develop resources to lobby the Federal Government regarding the introduction of any restrictive legislation on abortion. We need the voice of Manitobans to be heard. We have a critical role to play in the upcoming debate.

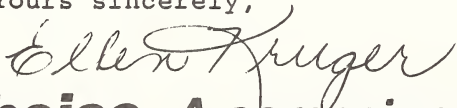
Second, we want to mount a legal challenge to the Provincial Government's decision to refuse to pay for abortions outside of hospitals. We know that abortions in approved medical facilities such as community health clinics are safer and less costly. We believe the government is acting unethically, perhaps unconstitutionally.

Tickets for this Choice Celebration are available at a cost of \$25.00. Larger donations are welcomed. Benefactors, who contribute \$200.00 and over and donors (\$100.00 - \$199.00) will be acknowledged in the evening's program.

Tickets can be purchased at Bold Print, 478-A River Avenue, the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, 16 - 222 Osborne Street, Times Change Restaurant on Main and St. Mary's, or the National Council of Jewish Women at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre, 1588 Main Street. Reservations will be accepted by mail at the Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Please join us, to celebrate our past victory, to honour Dr. Morgentaler, and to help ensure that our right to reproductive choice will be retained.

Yours sincerely,



**Choice** A campaign for reproductive freedom  
♀

Cleland, John

The Memoirs of Maria Brown; Edited and with an introduction by Maurice Renfrew; Hamlyn Paperbacks (#20393) 158p.

This is merely a subdued version of the story of Fanny Hill; an innocent girl seduced, then feeling that her worth has vanished, deciding to become a prostitute for the money available, and finally ending up as a mother and housewife in happily secure circumstances.

There is no element of this novel which makes it worth re-reading.



Clemens, Samuel L.

The Curious Republic of Gondour and Other Whimsical  
Sketches; New York, Boni and Liveright, 1919. 140p.

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Note: Most of the sketches in this volume were taken from a series the author wrote for The Galaxy from May, 1870, to April, 1871. The rest appeared in The Buffalo Express.

Only the first of these sketches is of particular interest to fantasy fans, and particularly those whose specific pursuit is utopias. The keynote of it is to give for achievement additional voting power, without taking away the democratic right from the most unworthy citizen. It seems a very sensible suggestion.

#13 is a truly shameful commentary on our treatment of Chinese immigrants.



Clement, Henry

De Sade; Based on the Screenplay by Richard Matheson  
Signet Book #T3952; (1969, American International Pictures)  
Illustrated 128p.

This is hardly a novel; it is more a vision of events in the life of De Sade as they might appear to him during his periods of insanity or as dream-interpretations. It is consequently as fantasy rather than biographical portrayal that this book must be considered.

Most of the critical events of De Sade's life are visualized, but in no chronological order; and emphasis is on the erotic rather than the philosophical and literary importance of them.

This is a superficial and sensational book, capitalizing on the movie, and of no importance to the student of De Sade.







Clements, Jonathan

Keep It Kinky; London, Sphere Books Limited (1969) 128p.

The title is suitable for this "story" of a photographer who encounters sex in an inn, on a train, in a graveyard, in a mausoleum, in a mortuary, and at a drug "turn on" party. Although there is some humor, the entire book is sordid and distasteful. Fortunately, life has more to offer than this book would indicate.



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This quality paperback was originally published at \$7.75 and the second printing is now available in bookshops for \$9.95. It is the best collection of ghost stories recently read by me; the author uses a traditional style of narration, usually having the story told to him by an acquaintance or a friend in conversational style.

(1) A malevolent doll defies destruction, reappearing and breaking up a marriage when it obsesses a child. (2) A boy sees the face of his dead father appear on a seal which has been slaughtered. (3) A lascivious ghost obsesses a womanizer and his new love and makes him settle permanently. (4) A farmer who hates Metis slaughters them, leaving their burial ground haunted by their ghosts. (5) A man's home is haunted; he deteriorates physically and psychologically, and his body is found embalmed as in his family's tradition. (6) A forerunner is a ghostly apparition that appears as the image of a person who will shortly die; this story summarizes the old Irish banshee belief. (7) A girl commits suicide rather than assist at robbing the bank where she works, and her ghost foils an attempt made after her death. (8) I made a mistake and described this as (4). (4) should be the story of a trapper and his son, the latter being killed in revenge by Indians in ghostly fashion. (9) is the traditional story of the woman killed by an automobile whose ghost appears at the scene every anniversary, but told with a unique twist. (10) A woman whose body is buried in an iron cage avenges herself on those who use the cage after digging it up. (11) The proceeds of a robbery are secreted under ice over a body of water, and a thief who betrays his accomplice is killed by a ghost.

These are all traditional ghost stories which have been many times told, but the expertise in the telling makes them exceptionally good.



Clifton, Mark, and Riley, Frank

They'd Rather Be Right; New York, Gnome Press, 1957; (1957, authors), (1954, Street & Smith Publications, Inc.) 189p.

This novel describes a telepath finding a former prostitute old and sick a fit patient for a computer Bossy to cure and rejuvenate, and as she acquires esperance under the treatment he is no longer unique. One of two scientists who tries Bossy is left unchanged because his thought patterns are too engrained, but an old friend of Mable is also rejuvenated. With the help of a wealthy tycoon the computer is made freely available to people worldwide as the only way to keep it from being misused.

The telepath falls in love with the rejuvenated Mable.

This simple story is important only because of the philosophy of science which is demonstrated. Its limitations and the way in which static thought-patterns prevent its acceptance of new ideas are graphically and sensibly presented.

The story part fails in the last half of the book, which becomes didactic. I must look up the authors and the readers' reactions to the original ASTOUNDING appearance. This is a very good early example of parapsychological fiction.

Note: This novel was reprinted as Galaxy Novel #35 under the title  
The Forever Machine 159p.





Having read and been puzzled by The Dark Chamber, I decided to read the author's two other novels. Although this first published of the three is far more easily comprehended, it seems to me that it is an even stranger book.

Told in the first person by Paulus Kempf, a supporter of the labor movement who runs away from jail by entering the wilderness where he is rescued by a giant Finnish man and his beautiful wife his surgical knowledge enables him to save the life of a boy who idolizes him as a result and becomes his companion. The giant is convinced that a communal group will establish a viable communistic settlement, and leaves to become its leader, and Paul falls in love with his wife.

Identifying himself with characters of Finnish myth and legend, Paul carves the stone face of a rock god and persuades the Finnish family group that he can make it speak. Playing on their superstitions, he acquires mastery so that they accept his open liason with the giant's wife. Combating his obligations to the Finnish couple by betraying his host, Paul lures him to the shelf of rock beneath the stone god's head and pushing him to death is free to continue his liason. Yet, assuring her that he will never leave her, he does, because he knows that she could never adjust to the city life to which he intends to return.

Although not primarily a fantasy, there are sufficient retelling of Finnish legends to qualify this book as borderland in a fantasy collection.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
September 21, 1998

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**FirstCity Trust**



Cline, Leonard

Listen, Moon!; New York, The Viking Press, 1926

312p.

Although my copy of this book indicates a second printing in its month of publication, August, 1926, it is a total change from either The Dark Chamber or God Head. This is a light humorous story of an old professor who has returned from his wife's funeral and dreads the possibility that his daughter may feel it her duty to return home to care for him.

He becomes friendly with the daughter of the minister of his local church whom he dislike and who is a member of the KKK. The daughter is about to run away from home because she detests her father's strictures and hypocrisy, but encourages Higbie to obtain the services of a housekeeper, since he is obviously incapable of looking after his home and himself. Higbie does so and becomes involved with a reporter, an eccentric philanthropist, the minister and a judge who was his former pupil. They buy a schooner and pose as pirates, naming the vessel the Mary Read after the female pirate who masqueraded as a man.

Much of the action and dialogue is farcical and the humor is strained by the length of this book, but its total difference in tone from Cline's other two novels made me wonder if he wrote more than these three.

That the reporter falls in love with the minister's daughter and that all the other males fall in love with the housekeeper is part of the humor but makes the story more incredible.

All three books are listed in Bleiler 1, but two are merely borderline at best.

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September 21, 1998

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**FirstCity Trust**

Cline, Leonard

The Dark Chamber; New York, The Viking Press, 1927 282p.

Years ago I read twice A Voyage to Arcturus by David Lindsay and was still unable to understand it in spite of its fascinating and imaginative narrative.

This novel tells of a musician hired by a memory researcher to assist him in understanding the effects of music on his life, who finds a household consisting of Pride, a 70 year old with a beautiful much younger wife and daughter, a weak male secretary, an adolescent black girl with Voodoo superstitions, and a huge police dog. Countless shelves of files built up by Pride to verify his hypotheses concerning the memorable details of his life, a neglected mansion, promiscuous mother and daughter, and intrigue between the mother and the secretary, become complicated when the musician who tells the story, falls in love first with the daughter and then with the mother. The secretary, fearing the loss of his lover the mother, discloses in a letter to Pride the faithlessness of his wife, and commits suicide. The black girl, given free access to treasures accumulated by Pride, permits him to experiment on her body. The dog appears to go mad, but not with rabies, and near the conclusion of the book howls differently as if possessed, the author hinting at lycanthropy. Pride disappears and he leaves only his daughter to the musician, his researches abandoned and his haunted home left to decay.

Throughout, the horror is merely suggested, but the deaths of even the mother and the debilitating sicknesses and near madness of all the characters support the title of the book.

Anyone with a knowledge of classical music and its <sup>4</sup>psychological effects, and who understands the fascination of the pursuit of knowledge in understanding the nature of memory will be interested in this novel, and it may be that this narration has no other purpose than to provide a warning.

I admit, however, that I feel incapable of understanding it.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
September 11, 1998

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CELEBRATING  
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**FirstCity Trust**

THE QUESTION: "If a man die, shall he live again?" Job xiv. 14.  
A brief history and examination of modern spiritualism by Edward Clodd  
with a postscript by Prof. H. E. Armstrong, F.R.S.  
London: Grant Richards Ltd. 1917.

The psychologist deals with the complex and unstable brain, more than 4/5ths of which is water and containing about 3,000,000,000 cells whose motor, sensory and association centers are located in its cortex or outer grey rind. Thoughts and emotions are accompanied by chemical changes or molecular vibrations in the nerve-tissues; changes in the nerve centers responding to external stimuli. Healthy working of the brain depends on the maintenance of its expended energy by food; if a man be starved or stupefied, paralysed or palsied, the brain is thrown out of gear. Neurons are possibly adapted to last the entire life of the organism; but once destroyed they cannot be replaced. Brain and mind are interdependent, but we cannot apply physico-chemical processes to mental processes. All brain responses to stimuli are accompanied by changes in consciousness; but we do not know what consciousness is.

One of the Kurnai tribe of Australia told A. W. Howitt the anthropologist that his yambo or spirit could leave the body. "It must be so, for when I go to sleep I go to far-away places; I see distinct people, I even see and speak with those who are dead." Hence the widespread avoidance of waking a sleeper, because his soul may be absent, among primitive cultures; and the European folk-custom of not turning a sleeper over lest the absent soul should miss the way back.

In nearly all languages the word for spirit and breath is the same. See Genesis ii.7. In barbaric belief the soul departs through the dying man's nostrils. T. Whiffen reports that the medicien-man among tribes of the N.W.Amazons works his cures sometimes by breathing on his own hand and then massaging the affected part. Jesus breathed upon the disciples when imparting to them the Holy Ghost. Also see the conferring of supernatural grace in the rits of the R.C.Church. The nearest relative of an ancient Roman would inhale his dying breath to ensure the continuance of the spirit, while the same reason prompted the act of a dying Lancashire witch, a friend receiving her last breath, and with it her familiar spirit. "That they sucked-in the last breath of their expiring friends was surely a practice of no medical institution, but a loose opinion that the soul passed out that way, and a fondness of affection, from some Pythagorical foundation, that the spirit of one body passed into another which they wished might be their own." (Browne, "Hydriotaphia" (Works Vol.3, p.130. 1907 edition.)

Swedenborg elaborated a theory of breathing, the different modes of which he correlated with spirit-breathing. "Inward thoughts have inward breaths, and purer spiritual thoughts have spiritual breaths hardly mixed with material" hence "the varying species of respiration produce for their subject divers introductions to the spiritual and angelic powers with whom the lungs conspire."

Early Hindus formulated a theory of connection between the physical and the psychical in breathing, reduction in frequency inducing or aiding meditative calm. Fakirs & Yogi ascetics regulate breathing even to suspension to give spirit mastery over flesh. Hare was informed by spirits that "they differ from one another in density and that they have a fluid circulating through an arterial and venous system which is subject to a respiratory process."



Clouston, J. Storer

Button Brains; London, Herbert Jenkins Limited (1933) 312p.

This humorous story of a human appearing robot dressed as a waiter who talks as one or as a salesman, is farcecal and seldom really funny. The characters are types mostly, and the incidents are contrived.

Imitation Wodehouse, to some extent.

The inventor is in danger of having his invention exploited by a plausible promoter whose brother takes it as collateral, and whose sisters, three spinsters living with their mother, keep a nephew in expectation of a legacy to finance his marriage plans. His girl falls in love with the model of the robot, which is so attractive that it is confused with him, providing incidental plot complications.

In part, amusing.

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**FirstCity Trust**



Coates, M. Helen

In Mysterious Ways; White Rock, B. C. (Bulman Bros.  
Limited, Winnipeg 62p.

This is the simple story of a spinster who tried to live by God's guidance and seems to have achieved spiritual peace. Apparently motivated by visions from early youth, she achieved the desires of her life up to the date of publication (which was apparently around 1952).

Convinced of freewill, she yet foresaw in visions goals which influenced her actions. She seems to have lived a life helpful to others, yet to have been dependent for help on her parents and friends many times. That she was capable of inspiring others with friendship towards her is evident; and her own altruism beyond question.

She seems to have achieved no more financial security than was adequate to arrange for publication of her book, which she hopes will become a "best-seller". However kindly one may feel towards her, one is left with the impression of an impractical and devout nature, ineffectually dealing with life's problems but earnestly striving to follow God's guidance.

This little book is clearly and simply written, and one can easily wish with its writer that life's problems could be answered by complete surrender to divine guidance. However, even the author admits that one can never be certain that one has correctly interpreted the visions which come.



Coates, Robert M.

The Night Before Dying; New York, Lion Library (#LL45)  
(October, 1955) 190p.

This is an alternate title for Wisteria Cottage. See  
my notes under original title.



Coates, Robert M.

Wisteria Cottage; New York, Dell Publishing Company,  
Inc. (#371), (1948, Author) 239p.

This is a careful study of a relapse into insanity of a young man who locates for a widow and her two daughters a summer cottage on Long Island, and who feels that they owe him family privileges for this and his services in improving the place. They like him and treat him informally, but his behavior becomes erratic and he finally interprets their actions as evil temptations, and their conduct immoral, and decides to kill them. Buying an ice pick and a hatchet, he kills the mother and younger daughter, whose attractions for him are greater than the more beautiful older and competent daughter, and a boy whom they have invited to stay with them to protect them in case their fears are realized.

Although it is worth re-reading for its psychological value, this is a depressing novel.

New York, Popular Library (#SP358) 157p.  
Alternate title: The Night Before Dying; New York,  
Lion Library (#LL45), (October, 1955) 190p.

New York, Harcourt, Brace and Company (1948, author) 212p.



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2 and 8 are closely related as to scene and mood; the former being the story of a murderer whose conscience forces him to confession when forced by superstition, and the latter a weird tale of a negro and indian fish-man who apparently communed with 200-lb catfish which avenged his murder.

4 and 5 are both concerned with an aged major who is made a cub reporter but who can never develop into a newspaperman.

7 is a Judge Priest story.

#8 is not in itself adequate to entitle this book to be placed in a fantasy library, and one would have to stretch the definition of the word to include #2 in that category. However, these stories are well told and interesting, though none is important. #3 is told from the author-omniscient point-of-view and might be considered fantasy as both the characters die and there is no way that their story could be known aside from omniscience. #7 tells of the reconciliation of two brothers, but the key to their reconciliation is not disclosed to the reader, excepting indirectly.

Bibliographical notes: This book was issued in a cheap format by the original publisher, and reprinted by Grosset & Dunlap with a frontispiece which did not appear in the first edition.





God and the World; Philadelphia, The Westminster Press (1969, Publishers), (Fifth Printing, 1976); Bibliography 138p.

Although the author in his preface hopes that this book will be intelligible for those not specialists in theology, I found it almost incomprehensible because it is designed to be read by educated persons (i.e., by people who are familiar with the philosophical and etymological meanings of the terms in which he expresses his views). Ray lent me the book, as he felt that it was strongly antagonistic to the fatalistic view which I have; and I suppose might encourage me to alter my philosophy.

The author does suggest God to be One Who Calls us to the future rather than the God whose nature we have deduced on the basis of history past. On the other hand, he accepts God as Creator in the traditional sense. Pages 75 and 76 outline his views on sensory and extrasensory perception, and his acceptance of the evidence for the latter; but he does not expand those views, nor does he appear to have considered deeply the effects which acceptance by science and theology of them would entail.

The book's emphasis and theme is the necessity of viewing theology in conjunction with the modern secular requirements of practical influence in world events, rather than spiritual preparation for what the author considers the dubious life after death. It is not clear to me whether he is personally doubtful of immortality, or merely doubtful concerning the validity of evidence for immortality in the light of modern theological thought.

Cobb appears open to belief in a universe far different from that which is apparent to our senses, but whether he has made any attempt to visualize such a universe imaginatively I cannot determine. He makes no mention of Olaf Stapledon, and I suspect that Stapledon's writings are unknown to him.

Although Cobb is obviously well qualified to write with authority in the field of theology, like so many specialists he lives in a world of his own which he cannot make real to the common man like myself.



1104 Mulvey Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba,  
R3M 1J5

September 6th, 1980.

Dear Ray,

I finished reading Cobb's book this morning, and am enclosing a copy of my file notes concerning it.

As I told you, I derived little benefit from the early part of the book, and I must admit that although I read the last part more carefully, it conveyed not much more. It is a book which would require me to study much material outside its confines in order to comprehend it adequately. You have the educational tools available, and I realize that it posed fewer difficulties for you.

If Cobb has a strong belief in free will, I cannot see that he has demonstrated it in this book. It seems to me that he leaves open the question as to whether the physical universe is static or evolving. Perhaps I have missed his views, as I did not study the book, but was looking merely for clues to his beliefs, some of which, on theology, are made perfectly clear, but on the nature of reality seem to me to be nebulous. He seems to be impartial in his appraisal of the value of the work done by other theologians, but I do not understand why he assigns it such high value in view of his apparent belief that the findings of science must be the criterion for a necessary adjustment of theology in favor of secularization.

I don't want you to feel that you must try to enlighten me about this book, as that might entail your undertaking to provide me with a college education. As indicated in my notes, the book may be perfectly clear to an educated person; it simply fails to convey its message to me. Or perhaps I should say that I am incapable of assimilating it.

I am enclosing a clipping which I overlooked giving you with the others. Your mother thought it might be interesting to you because of your early fascination with the Lone Ranger.

We hope that you have arrived safely in West Lorne, and will not have too much work to catch up.

Al and Elaine told us that they admire your competence and maturity, and I expressed my thanks to them and to the Home Street Church for having done so much for you.

We enjoyed your visit and are looking forward to seeing you again around Christmas time.

Love from us all,



Cobleigh, Ira U.

How to Get Rich Buying Stocks; New York, Belmont Books  
(#L513), (Second Printing, November, 1961) 125p.

The author aims for 500% profit on growth stocks held for the long term. He decries trading in and out of the market.

Eight characteristics of Growth stocks:

1. a dynamic industry.
2. superlative management.
3. strong on research and development.
4. strong on marketing.
5. excellent reputation for its products.
6. good earnings; plow back 60%.
7. must grow at a rate double that of the economy.
8. officers must be large shareholders, and support the market price of the stock.

The author recommends that the investor keep informed and ready to change investment strategy as circumstances dictate.





Coblentz, Stanton A.

Hidden World; New York, Avalon Books (1935 Continental Publications; 1950 Best Books; 1957 Thomas Bouregy & Company) 224p.

(Published serially as In Caverns Below)

Frank Comstock and Philip Clay are submerged by the cave-in of a Nevada silver mine. Separated, Frank encounters a race of chalk-faces who appear to be enamored of war, who are divided into classes of rulers, wealth and poverty, and who burn surpluses in order to maintain high prices and profits: in other words, subscribe to the capitalist system.

A professor and his daughter coach Frank, but he finds it difficult to repay them because the daughter subscribes to the "beauty-cult" of obesity and wrinkles and is enamored of him. Becoming at first an employee 3rd class of the ventilation company, he rises to inspector, then supervisor, each job giving him less work and more money. Finally he deposes the dictator, and, by gaining control of the ventilation system, is able to control the country.

His friend Phil likewise gains control of the opposing country, but through control of the food supply. Together they escape to the outer world.

Like others of Coblentz' novels, this satire points up the flaws in our social system. Well written, it is still not important as fantasy; it has no value beyond its satire. This should not be down-graded, because it strikes home in many respects, and I agree with it.

Bob Stimpson wants the book for his collection, and as I have the serial publication in two versions, I don't need it.



Cohen, Daniel

The Headless Roommate and Other Tales of Terror; Illustrations by Peggy Brier; New York, M. Evans and Company, Inc.(1980 author; Illustrations, publisher; Bibliography 128p.

Nineteen chapters, some involving more than one tale, retell in fictionized form, folklore horror stories circulating widely and other versions of which are embodied in textbooks on American folklore.

Although I include this and similar books in my fantasy collection, there are enough of them to warrant a special classification. Cohen is a good writer and has published many books about the occult, mainly from a skeptical viewpoint.

My copy of the book is ex-library in good condition except that the library markings have been blacked out; I suspect it was criticized as too gruesome for general circulation, children especially who might be attracted to it by the large print and illustrations.

There are some truly horrifying tales in this collection, plus some intended jokes to offset the terror in some cases.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
June 30, 1997

3246 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9  
(204) 831-7777

CELEBRATING  
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY  
1962-1987  
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE  
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**FirstCity Trust**

Cohen, Daniel

Masters of the Occult; Illustrated; New York, Dodd,  
Mead & Company (1971, author); Bibliography; Index 234p.

Although obviously biased towards scepticism, this is an interesting and well-researched survey of individuals who have had important influence on adherents to their teachings in occultism.

Among those surveyed are the Rosicrucians, Cornelius Agrippa, John Dee, St. Germain, Swedenborg, Mesmer, Home, Blavatsky, Hubbard and Eileen Garrett. Like almost all the sceptical writers, Cohen ignores facts which the rationalist explanations cannot dismiss, but his book is a good cautionary warning for the credulous.

This is a popular, rather than a scientific examination of the biographical information concerning the individuals discussed, and more attention is focused on the critical than on the positive biographies...

Cohen admits that other leaders of cults are not dealt with in this volume because he found their lives "dull". The book is consequently ~~xxx~~ selective rather than comprehensive. I found very little in it which was not already familiar to me, but the bibliography contains titles which I have not yet read.

This book should be kept for reference.



Cohen, Daniel

The Magic Art of Foreseeing the Future; Illustrated with  
photographs and reproductions; New York, Pocket Books (Archway  
#29703), (1973, Cohen); Bibliography; Index 210p.

Although his annotated bibliography is fairly representative of both believers and doubters of the reality of precognitive facts, and I agree that most scientists consider the problem to be unresolved, I have read of sufficient instances to accept the belief.

I think it was William James who said something to the effect that if only one white crow is found, that is sufficient to prove that not all crows are black. On page 170 he quotes the de Camps: "We do not think that one good hit among a thousand questionable ones is very good evidence." Although skeptical like the de Camps Cohen seems unconsciously, on page 151, to accept predictions when he writes: "As is usual, the prophet or prophetess is unable to avoid his or her own fate." He acknowledges several instances of people predicting the day of their own deaths. William James did investigate psychic phenomena; I think neither the de Camps or Cohen did so; both appear to have formed their opinions from the literature. Their method was also mine; we are both entitled to our differing opinions and possibly neither can be proven right.

Cohen mentions that Dunne's widow published his notes after his death, and they indicated that Dunne was more mystical than scientific, the impression he tried to convey in his books. I have read only his An Experiment with Time, but I have two of his more recent books about his ideas on "serial time".

Cohen summarizes the general impressions of the subject, but he does not provide a critical examination of the evidence. Like the de Camps, he ignores cases which might modify his skepticism. These are carefully considered in the Journal and Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research. Some facts are indisputable. Only an explanation of how they are possible is lacking.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
August 10, 1997



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**FirstCity Trust**

Cohen, Daniel

Monsters you never heard of; Illustrated with photographs and  
prints; ; New York, Pocket Books (Archway #44484) (1980, Cohen);  
Index 101p

This retelling of folklore tales makes no pretence to scientific validity, but relates obscure beliefs of monsters seldom mentioned in current books.

There are twelve short chapters and the index makes it unnecessary to list these. The book is intended for children.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
August 14, 1997

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CELEBRATING  
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**FirstCity Trust**

Cohen, Daniel

The Mysteries of Reincarnation; Illustrated;; New York, Dodd  
Mead & Company, (1975, Cohen); Bibliography; Index 172p.

Cohen seems to have made a more thorough study of this than of some subjects dealt with in his other books. Also, his skeptical attitude appears to be more tempered, if his comments on page 99 about Helene Smith are a true indication:

"Her performance was an impressive one. She brought out information that should not have been available to her through 'normal' means. All in all, if one had a tendency to believe in reincarnation, the case of Helene Smith might support our belief, if we knew less about it. But Helene Smith was too honest, too convinced of her powers, and Flournoy was too good an observer. All the imperfections were exposed to public view." Cohen is still skeptical, but his acknowledgment of the marvels of this case confirm the necessity to investigate the mysteries of the human mind.

His chapters on Edgar Cayce and "Bridey Murphy" are worth a careful study. His skeptical bias, however, often leads him to overlook the significance of many of the facts he narrates.

He mentions that Alexandre Dumas wrote a book about Cagliostro. Actually Cagliostro was a chief character in three novels I have read by Dumas, and one of the members of our local sf club told me that there were six, though my Dumas collection is not at present accessible for me to check this.

Cohen has read more on reincarnation than I have, but I have many books not listed in his bibliography, and of those he mentions I have some not yet read. He refers to Madame Blavatsky's prose as "often unfathomable"; my own opinion is that her mastery of English and her ability to express it was astonishingly proficient. Surely Cohen's opinion was not based on having read much of her voluminous writings. I agree with his opinion that she was "altogether one of the most remarkable personalities this world has ever seen".

His consideration of Dr. Ian Stevenson's researches is so cautious that he overlooks the importance of 1000 cases in the authority's files. Only 20 are dealt with in Stevenson's book.

This book encourages me to read more on the subject.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
July 28, 1997

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CELEBRATING  
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**FirstCity Trust**

Cohen, Daniel

Mysteries of the World; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc.; Illustrated; Bibliography; Index; (1979, Cohen)  
127p.

This is the most recently published hardcover book by Cohen in my possession; I am amused to find it less skeptical than his earlier books. In a preface he discusses Forteanism, concluding that the questions asked by Forteanism are better than no questions at all.

He begins with an interesting consideration of the great 1908 Siberian explosion, which appears more likely to have been the result of a comet striking the earth than a meteorite, no trace of which could be found. Continuing with a skeptical essay on cattle mutilations, he goes on to consider elephants in America, the dopelganger (admitting that he once met his own) but ignoring W. T. Stead's study, possibly because Stead was a spiritualist. On the subject of human spontaneous combustion he fails to consider some of the most important features of cases known to me, and feels that poor reporting sensationalized most. He tries to debunk "moon madness" and levitation, but is apparently unaware of many cases known to me and refers only to the most highly publicized D. D. Home case, ignoring many other instances. His final chapter on "Things from the Sky" acknowledges some facts.

Cohen is better informed than many writers on strange events but on some subjects should have consulted more authoritative books.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
August 1, 1997

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**FirstCity Trust**



Cohen, Daniel

Mysterious Disappearances; Illustrated with photographs and old prints; New York, Dodd, Mead & Company (1976, Cohen); Bibliography; Index 171p.

Divided into nine sections, this survey of both appearances and disappearances includes "lost continents" and objects as well as people.

Curiously enough, Cohen starts out by describing unexplainable experiences in his own household, apparently not realizing how like a mild poltergeist case he presents.

This was, for me, one of the least interesting of his books because most of the information he provides I knew already from other sources. Still, the index makes this a useful reference.

Most cases will never be solved, and Cohen suggests that his readers should merely accept them as the riddles they remain. He acknowledges that his interest in the unusual does not depend on solutions; this is much my own attitude.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
July 30, 1997

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3K 0Y9  
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C E L E B R A T I N G  
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY  
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**FirstCity Trust**

Cohen, Daniel

Myths of the Space Age; Illustrated; New York, Tower Books,  
(#118), (1965, 1966, 1967, author); Bibliography 250p.

This book is divided into nine sections, all interesting and indicating wide reading on the part of the author, who writes well from a skeptical point of view. I am almost totally ignorant of the subjects dealt with, excepting , III, IV, and V concerning which I have read 17 of the books mentioned in the bibliography and a great many more important books than those listed.

Like most skeptical books, this selects incidents which support the skeptical viewpoint and ignores or minimizes the facts which the SPR has investigated and confirmed during the years since its foundation in 1882. His dismissal of Mrs. Piper's phenomena is sufficient to prove his bias; anyone studying her case must be convinced of her genuine mediumistic faculty.

Although respectful of the SPR, Cohen does not give respect to those members who have helped bring the subject to its present scientific standing, but emphasises the frauds which have aided in his view of them as credulous and incompetent.

The opening chapter acknowledges the widespread interest in psychic phenomena and occultism, and the second section deals with astrology. Cohen does not examine the facts relating to astrology, but merely summarizes the scientific reasons for ignoring it; this appears to be his attitude also with regard to psychic phenomena. He admits that science does not know everything, but he mentions very few facts which are those which I and other believers accept in support of our thinking.

Like most skeptical books, this contains useful cautionary information, and some which I have not read elsewhere.

Few writers on so many different subjects can become familiar with or really understand them. Like most people, I am more ignorant than educated, but my reading on a limited number of subjects has been extensive.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
July 2, 1997

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CELEBRATING  
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY  
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**FirstCity Trust**

Cohen, Daniel

A Natural History of Unnatural Things; Illustrated; New York  
E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc.; (1971, author); Bibliography; Index 148p

I have read fifteen of the books listed in the bibliography and my library contains several others I have not yet read. This summary of several subjects devotes eight chapters to witchcraft, werewolves, vampires, demonology, giants, fairies, mummies and zombies, and artificial monsters, mainly from a historical and skeptical viewpoint.

Cohen points out that the growth of science and rationalism has reduced belief in superstition, but that science as an expansion of magic (the effort of man to master nature with the aid of gods or knowledge) must constantly experiment to understand what is still unknown, and that superstition is still prevalent.

Since most skeptics are materialists, it surprised me that Cohen on page 21 and in several other passages in the book admits that psychological states of mind do influence physical conditions and can cause death when doctors can find no physical cause. The power of belief or faith can overrule the physical.

He concludes the chapter on demonology with this; "Perhaps it is because there is so little historical basis to Satanism, or any sort of dealing with the Devil, that the subject slips so easily and so well into the realm of fiction. That is where it should stay."

On page 140 Cohen says that beliefs are usually based "on something". This followed his comments on mesmerism which is not yet understood.

The index makes thia a useful reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
July 27, 1997

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**FirstCity Trust**

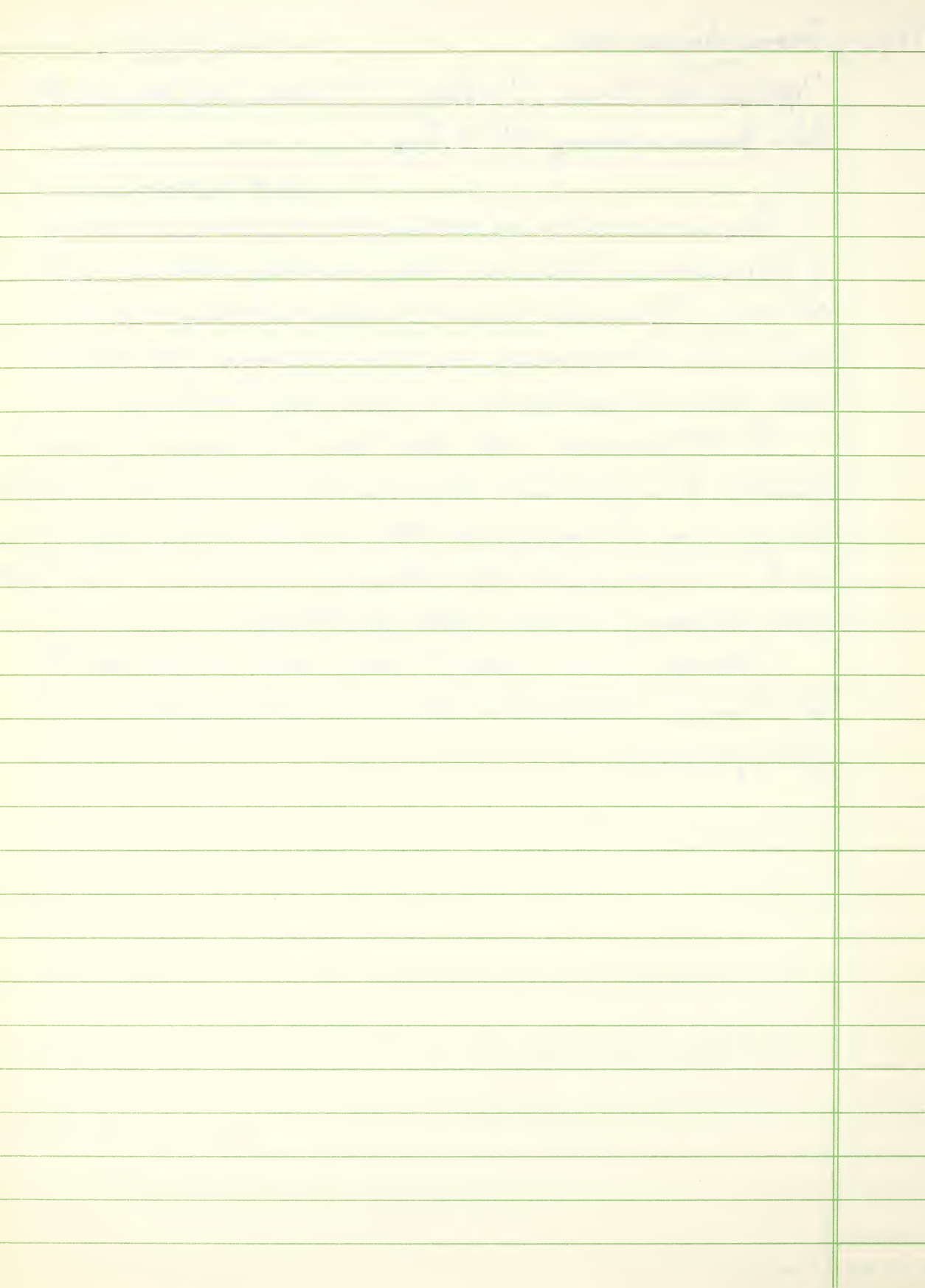
Alburn, Throna Eunice Hart

"Yermah the Dorado: The Story of a Lost Race" by New York, The Alice Harriman Company (1913) 433pp

This is an occult novel outlining the civilization and teachings of Atlantis and a Californian colony co-existing at the time of its destruction. A tremendous amount of research and study must have entered into its composition and it is a revision of the original story which was published in 1897 (see Hart, Throna Eunice).

The title character is the Ideal Man. The hierophant of occult tradition, he is left celibate, though permitted to marry after a limited term of celibacy. The tragedy of lost Atlantis, and the doom of sinful man; and the ideal triumph of the White Brotherhood, make this novel no great departure from the tradition of Garwick's "Brother of the Green Dragon".

Although it is an important occult novel, and forecast the San Francisco earthquake and fire, it is not too important in a fantasy collection.





Colby, C. B.

Stories Selected from The Weirdest People in the World  
New York, Scholastic Books Services 107p.

The title page is missing from this book, so I have not bothered to cross-reference it to the primary paperback. The original sold over a million copies, so this is merely a money-making alternate and abridged presentation of the original.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

240 HOME STREET • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3G 1X3 • (204) 783-5881

January 3, 1981

Dear Member of the Eldership/Diaconate:

The following pages describe a new program designed to enhance the meaning in being an elected leader of the Church, and to increase the potential for personal and church growth. It was introduced to and approved by the Board at its December meeting. This approval was given with the understanding that the ultimate acceptance, implementation, and operation of the program depends upon you.

This program is not at all complex. With your cooperation and effort it should not take too long to become fully operational and effective. Note that some elements of the program may later be modified or eliminated, with the development by the Evangelism Committee of a comprehensive program of evangelism for our congregation.

Fully implemented, the program should result in:

- a higher sense of the true importance of your office.
- an enhancement of the people's perception of the Elders as the Church's spiritual leaders, in accordance with the Biblical concept.
- a fairer and more orderly schedule for responsibilities related to worship.
- a more equal division of all duties and responsibilities so that the burden does not fall upon just a few.
- better organization and communication.
- the involvement of more persons (non-officers) in the worship service.
- the operation of an effective, ongoing greeter program for worship services.
- meaningful contact with visitors to the Church.
- more efficient contact with "prospects".
- more effective and responsive ministry.
- church growth.

In order to deal with questions and concerns you may have concerning the program, there will be a brief Elder-Deacon meeting following worship on Sunday, January 18. As you begin your individual involvement in the program, I will seek a time to meet with you personally to help to be prepared for understanding and fulfilling any new responsibilities about which you may feel uncertain.

Colby, C. B.

Strangely Enough! (Abridged); Illustrated by David Lockhart; New York, Scholastic Book Services (#438); (Sixth ptg., October, 1967); (1959, Colby) 184p.

These short sketches of unusual or possibly supernormal happenings include some rationalized instances. I doubt the depth of research because of the obvious errors of fact in the article on page 101. This book is a good source of plots for stories, however, and should be kept for that use.

A taller reprint copy with a different cover, apparently the 19th printing, is also among my paperbacks. It bears the same book number.



Colby, C. B.

The Weirdest People in the World; New York, Sterling  
Publishing Co., Inc. (Fourth Printing, 1975 (1973, 1965,  
Colby); Illustrated; 192p.

These short sketches of unusual or possibly supernormal  
happenings include some rationalized instances. Reprinted  
apparently from newspaper columns, they are popular summaries  
without reference to sources.

As a source of plots for stories, this book could be use-  
ful.

New York, Popular Library (#2581); (1965, Carroll Burleigh  
Colby) 143p.



Coles, Manning (See Gaite, Francis, pseud.)

Brief Candles; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1954 252p.

The Latimers, cousins, James the Englishman and Charles the Virginian, who are killed by the Prussians in France in 1870, are enabled to become materialized by the proximity of Sally, great grand-daughter of James, and her husband Jeremy who is her distant cousin. They appear to be able to vanish or assume corporeal life at will, and this leads to amusing incidents in the France of 1953. The Ghosts seem to have been in a state of suspended animation during the interval, as all the modern wonders are strange to them, and their incautious references to long-dead characters as if they were alive finally lead Sally to suspect the truth.

This is a light novel, but the incidents are commonplace and not out-of-the ordinary for the situation. Although the book is fantasy, it is of no importance.







Coles, Robert

Still Hungry in America; text by Robert Coles, photographs by Al Clayton, introduction by Edward M. Kennedy; New York and Cleveland, The World Publishing Company, (February, 1969), (Individual copyrights) 115p.

Published just before President Johnson's drive to abolish poverty, this book portrays the plight of the starving people, principally negroes, in rural Mississippi, Appalachia and in Atlanta, Georgia. It is observed that politicians in many of these regions fail to take advantage of programs made available by Washington to alleviate conditions.

This confirms what I have read in the five definitive poverty reports I read some years ago and which were published to support an appeal for a guaranteed annual income.

It is shameful that such conditions are allowed to exist in the wealthiest nation.



Collins, Gilbert

Death Meets the King's Messenger; London, Geoffrey Bles,  
1934 286p.

Colonel Gordon is murdered in a public motor-coach, and his daughter who comes to meet him is kidnapped together with a young man who attempts to assist her. The gang of crooks perpetrating these crimes, had years earlier been smuggling dope from Geneva to England, and had used the girl's uncle as agent, threatening him with exposure of his dope activities and gambling losses. Gordon had defeated them, and had made his brother-in-law disappear, but as a diplomat was in danger of being connected with the affair.

All this is brought out by a private investigator named Carding, well-known to authorities in England and France, and a competent sleuth, whose wife cooperated with him in matters. The gang made use of private flying clubs as well as stolen cars, an abandoned chapel in a chateau, and other properties to complicate the mystification.

This is a cops and robbers mystery, with the usual off-hand private investigator to do the brainwork, and more than enough complication of plot to keep the reader mystified. I consider it as no better than average, and of no permanent value.



Collins, Jackie

The Bitch; London and Sydney, Pan Books (#25928), (1979  
Collins) 160p.

Nico Constantine, a poor boy, is married by Lise Maria Androtti, an opera singer fifteen years his senior, to whom he is faithful until her death when he is forty. Wealthy and handsome, he goes to America and pursues sex, gambling, and luxury until he loses \$550,000 more than he can pay, and is threatened with mutilation by the casino owner unless his debt is discharged. He has a liason with a wealthy woman he meets in the casino, steals a ring which he thinks will pay his debt; finds that it is paste; gets involved with Fontaine Khaled, divorced from an Arabian Billionaire who is called "The Bitch", and in the end decides to settle with her, but like her feeling still attracted sexually to attractive other people.

This is merely sensational fiction, emphasising sex and luxury, money, crime, intrigue, the power of individuals over others. There is no sense of lasting relationships, or ethical values; merely self-preservation and gratification.



Collins, Jackie

Hollywood Wives; New York, Pocket Books (#49227); (1983  
Chances, Inc.) 550p.

Sex, money, fame, power: a complicated plot with too many characters and sub-plots, and a very sleazy style of writing make this sensational novel an up-dated version of Valley of the Dolls. It is difficult to believe that any group of people depicted like this can produce motion pictures which can add any worthwhile values to people's lives.

If this is a true portrayal of life in Hollywood, only materialistic values are considered. Anyone like the good girl Angel, who marries Buddy the handsome new star, is constantly threatened by the degradation of the majority of people around her, and the only salvation is to escape from the environment.

Curiously enough, the depiction of sexual encounters is off-hand, boring, unattractive, and strictly physical. Lust predominates; love is rarely emphasised. The photo of the author inside the back cover of the book suggests that she is a hard, ambitious and unscrupulous person, and that her writing is aimed solely at making money.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

240 HOME STREET • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3G 1X3 • (204) 783-5881

May 30, 1982

Dear Home Street Youth:

Just a note to let you know of the fun and exciting youth activities coming your way this Summer.

First - Youth Campout, July 1-4 at

Spruce Woods Provincial Park

A registration form is enclosed - note its due date: June 20. This is especially for you - the youth of Home Street Church - and your friends. We'll leave the church at 8:30 AM, July 1.

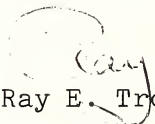
Second - Encounter '82, August 8-15 at

Bird's Hill Provincial Park

This is the Big One! Youth from all across Canada will be joining us for a terrific week. Camp leader will be Steve Mabry from Sacramento, California. If you attended the Anaheim Assembly last year, you may remember him as one of the youth leaders - the one with the guitar. Enclosed is further information on Encounter and an Encounter Registration form. Note its due date: June 30.

Again this year you have something great to work for. Bottles? Car washes? Whatever; it's time to begin. I'll be in touch.

In His Service,

  
Ray E. Trotter



Oliver, John

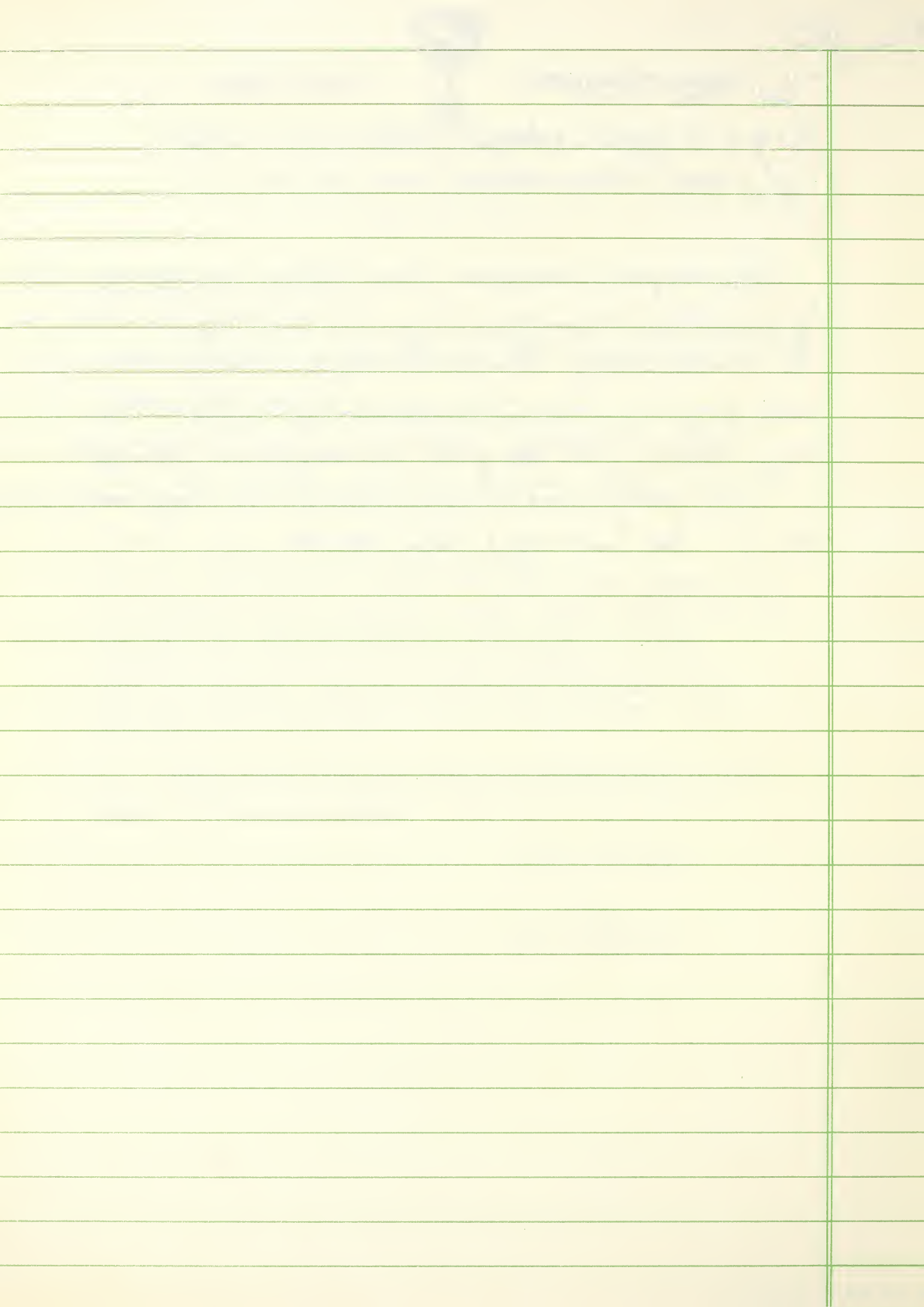
"Full Circle: A Tale"

New York, D. Appleton & Company, 1933. V-VI, 1-291 pp.

English Title: "Lone-A-Cold"

The downfall of civilization leaves England only sparsely settled by small tribal communities living semi-barbarously toward the close of the twentieth century. This is the story of a raid for women by a small group on a larger; the replacement of the tribal chief; and the tragic outcome of the love of the new chief for one of the captive women.

Well-written and thought-provoking, this story ranks fairly close to "Gay Hunter" by J. Leslie Mitchell.



Ghosts and Marvels: A Selection of Uncanny Tales from Daniel Defoe to Algernon Blackwood; with an Introduction by Montague R. James; London, etc., Humphrey Milford/Oxford University Press (1924) v-xvi plus 506p.

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This volume deserves its place in the World's Classics (#284), as every story is worthy of study. All are famous, and most have been reprinted many times.

I have most of the stories in collections by the individual authors, or in other anthologies, but this book is to be retained for reference.



More Ghosts and Marvels: A Selection of Uncanny Tales from Sir Walter Scott to Michael Arlen (The World's Classics #323); Oxford University Press/Humphrey Milford; no date 498p.

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This second volume of ghost stories in the World's Classics is about equal in quality to the first. #17 is the only ghost story I know of which has its locale in Winnipeg.





Collyer, Robert H. (M. D.)

Mysteries of the Vital Element in connexion with Dreams, Somnambulism, Trance, Vital Photograohy, Faith and Will, Anaesthesia, Nervous Congestion and Creative Function; 2nd Edition; London, Henry Renshaw, 1871; Appendix 144p.

Many years ago I noted Collyer's mention of Poe on page 110 and I copy the following from page 66: We knew intimately that extraordinary writer Edgar Allan Poe. He was obliged "to tune himself up," to use his own expression, before he could write a line. His brain would not throw off until it was stimulated to the functional condition. We have known Poe drink a pint of whisky. All his famous productions were written under the stimulus of drink.

The bulk of this book was written to support Collyer's claim to priority in using vapors to induce anaesthesia. He was very active in lecturing on mesmerism and investigated spiritualism, concluding that table-turning was the result of vital force from the circle of sitters being transferred to the table. He denied any supernatural involvement and forecast that physiology would some day explain all phenomena.

In the Appendix, however, he reprints the declaration of a committee that they agreed a medium possessed an abnormal state of mind; Collyer proved an instance of clairvoyance. Skeptics all excepting one person were convinced.

Collyer was an inventor as well as a physician and I have been able to find only brief mention of him in other books. He deserves study, even suggesting that his friend Hare, once converted to belief in spiritualism, held to that belief in spite of Collyer's doubts.

Carrington wanted to see this book, but I ceased writing him before I could find time to read it thoroughly myself; and I found time only now to confirm my view of its importance.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
February 7, 2001



# CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA



Collyer, Robert

Some Memories; Boston, American Unitarian Association,  
(n.d. 248p.

I merely scanned this book to see if the author was related to Poe's acquaintance of the same name.

I noted on pages 79-80 that around 1872-1873 he visited "our old friends, James and Lucretia Mott". It was he, therefore, who wrote of their marriage as quoted on pages 93-94 of Myrtle Reed's Happy Women

Collyer was born on December 8, 1823 and did not go from England to the U.S.A. until 1849, the year of Poe's death, so I doubt that he was related to Dr. Collyer.

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**FirstCity Trust**

Colombo, John Robert

Extraordinary Experiences: Personal Accounts of the Paranormal in Canada; (1989, J. R. Colombo), (Second Printing, January, 1990); Willowdale, Ontario, Hounslow Press 279p.

Under these headings: Native Spirituality; Beasts and Beings; The Art of Healing; Crisis Apparitions; Ghosts and Spirits; Poltergeists and Hauntings; Ecstatic States; Mediums and Psychics; Visions and Premonitions; and Unidentified Flying Objects, the Editor has gathered from published books and from correspondence with their narrators these narratives of unusual experiences.

Independent verification of almost all cases is lacking and this book would have little chance of acceptance by the scientific community, but as a popular presentation of such occurrences it will familiarize its readers with Canadian instances of natural or psychic phenomena well-known to the students of psychic phenomena. To such students, the main value of the book is its confirmation of similar cases known from other sources.

Having had over seventy books published, Colombo will attract many readers who might pay no attention to a similar book edited by one less well known and esteemed.

From this book I learned that Susanna Moodie had some sittings with Katie Fox, and that her sister Catherine Parr Traill was a powerful medium. I wonder if any of Traill's writings deal with her psychic abilities.

This book is a quality paperback which attractively presents information the general public should know. Some categories deal with occurrences with whose literature I am not well acquainted, and concerning which I am unable to offer any informed opinion.

This is one of several books on similar subjects which Colombo has had published, and I gather from his letters that he will continue to do research in the field.



Friendly Aliens: Thirteen Stories of the Fantastic Set in Canada by Foreign Authors; Toronto, Hounslow Press (1981, Colombo) 181p.

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Whither Canadian Fantasy?	Donald A. Wollheim	175A
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Since I had previously read eight of the thirteen tales reprinted in this volume, my comments will be restricted to the stories new to me.

(7) Although I have the book from which this story was taken, I had not read it. This is about average for Shiel, a very uneven writer. (9) A Fearn potboiler. (10) Derleth mentions Lovecraft and Blackwood during the course of this story, and his sources for its ideas are thus made clear. (12) I did not care for Tiptree's flippant approach to the paradoxes of time travel, although possibly from a literary point of view the story has merit. (13) I'm not sure that I apprehend the significance of the ending of this cynical view of warmongering business.

Printers' errors are so numerous that it is probable no proofreading was done. In the acknowledgements on Page 180 Blackwood's "A Haunted House" should be "A Haunted Island". Because of his birthplace, I would classify Starrett as a Canadian rather than a foreign author. On page 18, Colombo describes The Call of the Wild as London's "first book"; its publication was preceded by five earlier books.

(12) was probably inspired by May Sinclair's "Where Their Fire Is Not Quenched" (Uncanny Stories, 1923). Colombo might be interested in comparing the two stories.

A very uneven anthology, probably because choice was limited. Glad to see several of my favorite authors represented; this book will become a collector's item because so many collected authors are in it.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
December 11th, 1981.





Other Canadas: An Anthology of Science Fiction and Fantasy; Toronto/Halifax/Montreal/Vancouver, McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited (Colombo, 1979) 360p.

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This first anthology of Canadian fantasy literature was surprising to me in revealing how little I had read of the more modern examples. Most interesting were the non-fiction notes and essays, and the introductory comments by the editor.

The material I had previously read is commented on in my file notes. The poetry conveyed little to me, and I do not feel competent to appraise it...

(10) An alien view of mankind. (11) A man disillusioned by people intends to isolate himself from them, but is encouraged to mingle again. (12) A family survives the atom bomb. (13) A mother and son surviving the bomb enter an incestuous relationship to carry on the race. (14) An Indian refuses aid to white people after the bomb drops, but is himself killed by wind-blown fallout. (15) A common man finds himself elected Prime Minister without awareness of how it was accomplished.





(16) A folk-tale based on the idea that even an archangel on earth can fall into the error of eating flesh on Friday.

(17) The director of a robot-operated hospital watches the romance between a soldier patient and a robot nurse, thus relieving the tedium of his period of duty. (18) A Beach Party attended by a lovely widow and a man who falls in love with her culminates in the mating flight of alien Sparkiebugs. This is another of Coney's pot-boilers, and he is capable of better work. (19) In the near future, another savior appears.

(20) I cannot off-hand remember a story, a weird tale, based on this same idea of the protagonist becoming aware of the day of his death because of noticing a record. In the other story the record was on a tombstone; this is on a birth certificate. It seems obvious that this story was based on the other.

(21) Although completely different in style and significance, the basic idea of this story is similar to one I used years ago in my "Golden Peril". I'm reasonably sure that it is most unlikely that the author saw my fanzine-published story, so I am startled at how closely the idea comes to mine.

Of the essays, the Centennius I had never found mentioned in any listing of pamphlets or books. Universe is merely a narrator's description of an astronomical viewpoint, and is a transcription of a media program. The Ketterer and Atwood essays should be studied for the Canadian Bibliography.



Colombo, John Robert

Years of Light: A Celebration of Leslie A. Croutch: A  
Compilation & a Commentary; Toronto, Hounslow Press, 1982;  
Four Stories; Light Flashes; Appendices; Illustrated 193p.

To the best of my knowledge, only WARHOON 28 compiled by  
Richard Bergeron concerning the work of Walter A. Willis can  
be compared with this volume. Willis was a far more important  
figure in fandom than Croutch; and Bergeron's work is superior  
to Colombo's; but certainly this is a landmark volume relating  
to a personality and fandom in Canada.

There are errors of fact and failure to connect relevant  
material, but on the whole this volume will prove of assistance  
to researchers into the history of fandom in Canada. It is a  
memorial which I am sure was never dreamed of by Croutch, and  
which will be treasured by his family and by his friends and  
correspondents if any survive and learn of its existence.

Colombo deserves the congratulations and thanks of all  
fantasy fans for having located the Croutch material and for  
arranging its preservation in the Spaced Out Library. It is a  
sad fact that this material, like the collections of many fans,  
might have been ultimately thrown away by Croutch's family, who  
probably had little or no interest in Les's hobby, if Colombo  
had not rescued it from neglect. It is significant that Les's  
family contributed no personal reminiscences in written form  
to enhance the volume.

This book was inscribed and autographed, and presented to  
me by John Robert Colombo, and is an important reference work  
for the Canadian section of my collection.



Committee of Inquiry into the Economics of the Gold Mining Industry, 1955; Profs. H. A. Knox, E. E. Reilly, H. R. Rice; Toronto, Baptist Johnston, Queen's Printer, Toronto, 1955

Title: Gold Mining in Ontario

117p.

This is a handy reference work covering the progress of the gold mining industry in Ontario from its commencement, with tables and summaries of problems which indicate that only the increase in the price of gold from \$20.67 to \$35.00 an ounce in 1934 by the U. S. under President Roosevelt has enabled it to survive to 1955, and that only control of the costs of mining or an increase in the price of gold is likely to enable it to continue.

On the whole, it is a report favorable to the industry on the ground of efficient operation, but pessimistic with reference to its future.





Coney, Michael G.

Friends Come in Boxes; New York, Daw Books, Inc. (1973),  
(#UQ1056), (Coney) 160p.

With a prologue and an epilogue, the author presents five dossiers of people living in a world which, because of limitations imposed against population explosion and ecologic factors has decreed death at age forty, with the brain transplanted into the body of a six-months' old baby, giving a conditional immortality to those found worthy of survival, and the death-sentence to criminals. The falling birth-rate means a shortage of hosts for the brains, which are kept in wired boxes with auditory and voice facilities pending transfer, and which are called friends.

Coney succeeds in establishing his terms of reference by ignoring the possibility of any alternatives, and portrays the personal, social, and sociological consequences of the situation by means of the dossiers. Former lovers lose touch and only by chance become acquainted again in new bodies; the fear of extinction imposes a morality and regimentation which some rebels find unendurable, so they seek to establish freer lives in colonies outside the system of Code Cards.

In addition to a black market in baby hosts, androids are used as hosts to supplement the shortage; one of these, Dr. Phillip Ewell, a Transfer Surgeon, has in a past life loved Alice Lander and meets her again just as she has accidentally killed a child and is desperately seeking a premature transfer before she can be executed. Other characters center about the transfer hospital, and include a girl with no Code Card whose birth had not been registered by her parents, who takes them as guests when they become friends, but is blackmailed and raped by a hospital attendant who is then punished by Ewell; a nurse who has not registered her child and is blackmailed by her superior Sister, but foils the abduction of the child by substituting a child with an adult brain; a drunk whose mother arranges to have him replace her in her friend's box; and a girl dying of cancer in the outlaw colony, who refuses a transfer because it would violate her choice of freedom from the System.

This is competently written commercial science fiction, but did not appeal to me nearly so much as the author's Mirror Image. The artificial restrictions of the situation on which the dossiers were based left the author no room to develop the broader views explored in the earlier novel. It is above average, however, and Coney is well worthwhile.





Hello Summer, Goodbye; London, Victor Gollancz Ltd,  
1975 (Coney) 221p.

This is the least interesting of Coney's novels that I have read. It is told in the first person by Drove, whose father is a member of Parliament and privileged, a boy whose rebellion against his authoritarian father and foolish mother breaks out when they try to separate him from the daughter of a tavern-keeper at a summer resort.

Drove learns that his parents are numbered among people who have prepared an underground refuge against increasing cold which threatens to annihilate the main population. He tries to be loyal to the girl he loves, but is overwhelmed by the fate which she also faces.

Aside from the transposition of earthly surroundings to an alleged alien planet, and the use of minimal science fiction trappings, this is merely the idyll of a holiday season experience, a boy-and-girl romance which ends tragically.

Although well-written, I suspect that this is an early novel which was altered to science fiction for publication after Coney entered the field with two published books.

Note: GDN SF & F says (p.3) Published by DAW as Rax, 1975.



The Jaws that Bite, The Claws that Catch; New York, Daw Books, Inc. (#144, UY1163), (March, 1975, Coney) 191p.

Joe Sagar, who imports slithes from another planet and sells the skins they shed to wealthy women, is a member of a glide club whose premises are not far from his farm. Using women from the state penitentiary as labor, and a bondman from the same institution as foreman, he can make more money than by using freeman labor.

He falls in love with a bondgirl who plays an orchestrella for an aging 3V star for whom he has contracted to make a dress of slithe-skins. The star tries to ensnare him through sexual allure, but being unable to compete with her bondgirl, takes the girl's arms, as she is permitted under the bonding terms. Joe is horrified, especially when Carioca Jones, the 3V star, returns the girl to the penitentiary.

A fellow club-man is killed when his glider appears to have been sabotaged, and Miss Jones is suspected. Joe has a brief joyous liason with a southern girl, and learns that she has been a passenger on a smuggler's ship which is wrecked in a storm, is drugged with other passengers, and is intended to be imprisoned and used by a prison official as a source of organs for wealthy women. Before he can verify his suspicions, she has lost her beautiful legs.

Joe's business fails because a supplier of exotic animals lets loose one which gets over his fences and then lets out his slithes. He accuses his foreman of negligence, and has to apologize when the foreman is himself carried off by the predator, but fortunately rescued by Joe.

Miss Jones is convicted of complicity in the death of the glider, but not until she has managed to get Joe to join her organization dedicated to freeing the spare parts people from whom she had herself benefitted. Joe's efforts are instrumental in exposing the corrupt prison official who has profitted in the traffic, but he is astounded when Carioca and her former bond-girl change roles, leaving him without his expected companion in a paradise he had planned.

Although this novel comes closer to mainstream than either of the others by Coney which I have read, it is less fantastic, and less interesting. "Organleggers" aren't new in science fiction, and this story has less originality than either of the others. It is quite smoothly written, but it does not adequately provide the background of the situation making up the plot: there seems to be no reason, apart from disparities of wealth, for the "organlegging".

Note: CDN SF & F says (p.3) published in England as The Girl with a Symphony in Her Fingers.





Coney, Michael G.

Mirror Image; New York, Daw Books, Inc. (1972, Coney)  
(UQ 1031-095); frontispiece 174p.

Hetherington, an industrial tycoon, has named an undeveloped planet after his wife Marilyn, and has sent Alex Stordahl as his supervisor with approximately 200 colonists to establish a base. Unsuccessfully, Stordahl tries to plant superrice in a delta, but is defeated by piranavas, silvery fish which kill. Returning to the base town named Alice, the colonists work to build it, and are helped by a curious amorphous creature capable of developing into any shape, but mainly the ideal of the person in closest proximity to it. These amorphs, as they come to be called, are passive and compliant; their capability mainly a defensive and protective function; but continued association with an individual tends to fix their morphology into permanent individuals.

Stordahl has lost his wife and five-year-old daughter a couple of years previously, and has accepted this assignment to get away from his usual surroundings and as a challenge to occupy his mind and energies. Hetherington has taken care to supply sufficient women among the colonists, and suggests that Stordahl will be pleased with the girl intended for him. In fact, Alex is satisfied, but his resentment at Hetherington's presumption makes him resist Joan, who loves him. Lacking suitable response from Alex, and needing reassurance, Joan obtains an amorph who duly develops into an idealized Alex; Joan keeps the ideal with her until developments require all amorphs to report, when this mirror image of Alex releases the amorphs in his name.

Conditions on the planet Marilyn include an iron-dust desert which is difficult and dangerous to work, and an expedition is sent to explore the possibilities. Alex finds Walsh and his wife Katie, who abandoned the settlement when it seemed that Katie would soon die of cancer; and noticing that Katie seemed prettier and healthier, came to the correct conclusion that she was an amorph; this was confirmed when he and Joan saw four other Katies near their home.

Hetherington, not satisfied with Alex's reports and intrigued by the possibilities of the amorphs, comes to Marilyn, bringing his wife. Marilyn and Alex had met before; Marilyn, a highly sexed woman is determined to acquire Alex as a lover, her husband being armless and slowly using the use of his legs, his wheelchair, with guns in its arms, controlled by his feet. Captured by amorphs rebelling under the leadership of a megalomaniacal amorph comprising a composite of Hetherington and four brilliant egocentric scientists who support him, Marilyn and Alex are thrown together and Alex succumbs to Marilyn's charms. Hetherington suspects; accuses Alex who confesses his love for Marilyn; Hetherington demotes Alex and assigns him to continue the superrice planting with the aid of the amorphs under their defeated leader Moses; then has his own mirror image strangle his wife.

An asexual child is born to Katie, a boy who will be human,

but without evil, apparently following the ancient belief of virgin birth without original sin. On this note the book closes, with hope that the colony will survive to a wonderful future.

Many of the incidents, including details of the abortive rebellion of the amorphs and their rehabilitation under the guidance of Alex and Moses, are not included in this summary.

This is a mature science fiction book, plotting, incident, characterization, and development adequate to the theme. The writing is highly professional, and I'd be astonished if it is the author's first book. This is the fourth Daw book I've read, and it is much superior to the other three; in fact, I think it one of the best modern science fiction books I've read as an original paperback. The theme of the amorphs has been used many times before, but it is here handled competently and sympathetically.

There are some minor flaws, like errors of grammar: the author uses "I" instead of "me" following a preposition in at least two places. The text at the close of page 110 is so far from preparing the reader for the material commencing at the top of page 111 that I am left with the impression that some transitional paragraphs may have been omitted. Alex's sexual adventures and the fact that his Te (the ideal into which the amorphs mold themselves) is his dead daughter, are in keeping with the author's description of him as not considering sex important, especially when he allows Hetherington's attitude to dictate his refusal of Joan's love; but when he expects his Te to assume the form of his daughter, and instead is faced with an amorph in Marilyn's guise, and vomits, this whole incident seems to contradict both Alex's sexual nature and the function of the amorph as a Te. But perhaps I miss the author's purpose in describing this incident, and also his neglecting to bring Joan and Alex into the relationship which Joan's love deserves.

Whatever its few shortcomings may be, I am delighted with this book. It is worth several readings, not only for its views on industrialization and slavery, the relations between capital and labor, and between the intelligent and the followers, but simply as a good story. It is interesting and instructive without being pedantic or sensational.

Coney, Michael G.

C3

Winter's Children; London, Sphere Books Limited (1974,  
Coney, Gollancz) 174p.

Following a shift in the axis of the earth's orbit, the fifth Ice Age forces people to live below the surface of the earth, or to use kites or ice-boats for transportation, as fuel and technology are lacking.

Jacko and a few followers are endeavoring to build an ice-boat large enough to transport their little community. They are menaced by telepathic Pads, who are bearlike; and by flesh hunters who fly kites for transportation. They are able to obtain food supplies from buried supermarkets, and other supplies like ammunition, clothing, likewise. One of their number is an alcoholic who has developed rapport with the Pads, who are already under the telepathic domination of Ajax, a renegade to whom they are forced to look for leadership if he defeats Jacko.

This story is slower moving than any of the other three books by Coney which I have read, and it is based on two stories published in Galaxy magazine. It is inconclusive, and has very little originality.

Bibliographical note: Discover a Latent Moses  
The Snow Princess





Giants Unleashed; New York, Grosset & Dunlap (1965,  
Publishers) 248p.

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This is a better-than-average anthology of science fiction stories. My choice would be (1), (4), (9), (10), (11) as the best. (4) mathematical development originated by a machine; (10) mathematical prodigy.

Many of these stories have ESP elements.

New York, Tempo Books (#T-111), (April, 1966)	248p.
V.T.: Minds Unleashed (#5361), (October, 1970)	248p.

one has to take care of you when you are old.

You have what appears to be a reasonable nest egg saved. Some in secure savings, some in real estate. And perhaps some in the market -- in stocks and bonds. In fact, all in all, your investments have been appreciating better than you expected.

What my assumptions boil down to is this: You are doing O.K. -- to all appearances you are taking care of your responsibilities.

You've recognized that making, and then accumulating, money is key to the quality of your life and you are doing alright.

However, I have some questions:

- \* Are you sure you are doing as well as you could and should be doing?
- \* How secure are you really?
- \* Are you really so enamored with work that you intend to labor until you must retire? (I know of no one who, on their death bed, expressed regret about not having spent more days of their life at work!)
- \* Do you really believe you must wait until you are old and broken until you enjoy the "good life"?
- \* For that matter, do you believe you have really amassed enough wealth to guarantee yourself a free and independent retirement?
- \* Do you really have enough wealth so that you don't have to worry about what will happen should you encounter a long or disabling illness?
- \* What about your spouse, your children, your children's children? Assuming you wish to gift them with a substantial legacy -- honestly, do you really believe you can do it?

I'll be frank. There isn't one Canadian in a hundred who, in the light of their true reality, can honestly answer "yes" to the questions and concerns I've raised.

I'm not talking about poor Canadians. I'm talking about people who, to all appearances, seem as if they're doing pretty well. You can call them "upper middle class" or what you will (a lot of these folks call themselves rich).

The sad truth is they aren't doing as well as they think.

You see, the truth is you may need a lot more money to get what you want than you may realize.

If you want to stop working now and live the good life (let's say

Conklin, Groff (Editor)

Anthology.

Minds Unleashed (Variant title of Giants Unleashed)

HUME PUBLISHING COMPANY  
4141 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario  
M2P 2A7

HUGH R. FURNEAUX  
President



January 2, 1986  
January 2, 1986

C. D. Cuthbert  
1104 Mulvey Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3M 1J5

Dear C. D. Cuthbert:

This is about your money and your life.

I won't mince words. If it offends your sensibilities to regard money as key to your pleasant present, your free and independent future, and your legacy to your loved ones -- please read no further.

If, however, you have come to the conclusion that living the way you wish to live in the real world does depend on money, then I believe you should find this letter challenging and thought-provoking at the very least.

In fact, you may come to bless the day you got this letter.

First, let me freely admit that I have made some assumptions about you.

You are not a loser. Most people who know you consider you a success. You may not be filthy rich, but you are paying your own way. You are not lazy -- you have always believed in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.

So, you have been able to achieve a certain amount of relative prosperity. You probably own a home (you may even own a vacation home as well), a couple of cars, perhaps even a boat. You are able to take a vacation each year, maybe even two -- one in the winter and one in the summer.

You are responsible -- you care for your family. You have mortgage insurance, life insurance (you probably wish you had more), and medical insurance.

If you have children, you are prepared to help them -- with their college education -- with getting a good start in life. In any event, you have resolved that you will do your darnedest to make sure that no

The Supernatural Reader; Philadelphia and New York, J.  
B. Lippincott Company, (1953, Editors) 349p.

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I read 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, and 27 from this volume. I believe I have read all the other stories from the authors' collections or from other anthologies. Probably 18 is the most impressive poltergeist story.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

240 HOME STREET • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3G 1X3 • (204) 783-5881

May 30, 1982

Dear Home Street Youth:

Just a note to let you know of the fun and exciting youth activities coming your way this Summer.

First - Youth Campout, July 1-4 at

Spruce Woods Provincial Park

A registration form is enclosed - note its due date: June 20. This is especially for you - the youth of Home Street Church - and your friends. We'll leave the church at 8:30 AM, July 1.

Second - Encounter '82, August 8-15 at

Bird's Hill Provincial Park

This is the Big One! Youth from all across Canada will be joining us for a terrific week. Camp leader will be Steve Mabry from Sacramento, California. If you attended the Anaheim Assembly last year, you may remember him as one of the youth leaders - the one with the guitar. Enclosed is further information on Encounter and an Encounter Registration form. Note its due date: June 30.

Again this year you have something great to work for. Bottles? Car washes? Whatever; it's time to begin. I'll be in touch.

In His Service,

  
Ray E. Trotter



Connelly, Marc

The Green Pastures: A Fable; Suggested by Roark Bradford's Southern Sketches, "Ol' Maa Adam an' His Chillun"; New York, Farrar & Rinehart, Incorporated (1929, Author)

173p.

This is the play version; I have not read it, but am placing the book among those I have read, since my reading of the original Bradford book is too recent to allow me to enjoy this version. (CDC, Sept. 14, 1985)

Changed my mind and decided to read this play.

It starts out differently, and continues so with the exception of a few key biblical events which are dealt with in detail. I found the play inferior to Bradford's version, and the humor also deficient. However, it was quick reading and I'm glad I read the play, just to know the slight view it gives of Bradford's book. It ends with God listening to Christ's dying on the cross, the lesson being that man must learn through suffering.





Connington, J. J.

Nordenholt's Million; Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England,  
Penguin Books (1946), (1923) (#582) 286p.  
(Famous Fantastic Mysteries, December, 1948 (Abridged))

Plant life in England is blighted; the blight spreads to the rest of the world; and the food supply is inadequate to support the population. Nordenholt, whose profound knowledge of psychology enables him to understand men, gathers about him a group of young experts; forces the government to accept him as dictator; and plans to seclude five millions of people in the Clyde valley where they are to work toward survival.

Told in the first person by Jack Flint, whose organizational ability has attracted Nordenholt's attention, this is one of the greatest novels of its kind that I have read. The author has depicted the effects of the calamity on various groups of people, describing the roaming street gangs in the streets of London, the wanton destruction by fire of buildings and goods, the abandonment of morality, the rise of religious fanaticism in the secluded Nitrogen Zone, the world spread of the plant disease and its dying out, and ultimately the discovery of a way to harness the atom's energy to replace the loss of coal when the mines are sabotaged.

Only incidentally is the romance between Jack and Elsa Huntingtower, Nordenholt's ward, dealt with; but Connington succeeds in depicting her humanitarian views in contrast to the practical and material actions of Nordenholt and Flint, who must deal with the problem.

I do not remember whether this is one of the novels whose abridgment in Famous Fantastic Mysteries was publicized by Harry Warner, and I have not compared the two versions in any detail. Possibly the abridgment did not harm the essential story, but I would recommend getting the complete version if at all possible. It is well-written and interesting all the way through, and deserves the status of a classic.

When it is considered that this novel was written before Amazing Stories magazine was established in April, 1926, the fact that I have read it fifty years later and found it fascinating should be a sufficient proof of its lasting value.



Conquest, Joan

Desert Love; New York, The Macaulay Company (1920) 300p

This is a romantic novel of a companion girl who deserts her employer to escape into the desert with an Arab noble who kills ruthlessly at will, and punishes cruelly anyone who fails to carry out his orders. Although a passionate lover, he respects the girl's chastity until she gives him her heart and then he fulfills her every desire for luxury and sleeps outside her tent to protect her. When she yields herself, he becomes jealous and forbids her even meeting former boyfriend who nearly dies in the desert after his intention to meet the girl is discovered.

Although the local color of Egypt is probably accurate and makes the most interesting part of this novel, it is a hopelessly romantic portrayal of the characters, unrealistic and that of possibly a young girl who would swoon at the sight of Rudolf Valentino.

A book of no importance apart from its portrayal of a writer aiming at romantic, exotic love.



Conrad, Joseph

Tales of Hearsay; Frontispiece; Garden City, New York,  
Doubleday, Page & Company, 1926 120p.

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(1) a war story about the exhausted condition of the Russian and French armies during Napoleon's invasion of Russia. A boy whose life had been saved by a Frenchman shoots the latter to put him out of his misery. (2) the Prince joins the army as a private under an assumed name, but is sentenced to exile in Siberia when he is exposed, with a special note that he be treated without favor by direction of the ruler. (3) a cruiser captain tells as a tale of another world of his having without evidence doomed a ship and its crew, and having to live with the doubt. (4) a ship's captain who is a spiritualist and credulous is made to believe that his mate has had a supernatural experience causing his hair to turn from black to white. In fact, the mate had been unable to get a berth because of his white hair; had dyed it; but the dye had been spilled and lost; and he used the experience in explanation of his white hair when the dye wore off.

Only (3) and (4) have suggestions of fantasy, but both are rationalized, and so are merely of associational value. The book does not belong otherwise in a fantasy collection.





Conway, Hugh

Dark Days; Chicago and New York, Rand, McNally & Company, n.d., 264p.

Many years ago I read a eulogistic appraisal of Conway's novels, and started collecting them. This is the first I've read.

Told in the old-fashioned melodramatic and romantic style, this is still a well-written and extremely well-plotted novel. A doctor who loves a part-Spanish girl who does not love him proposes, but is rejected and he learns that she is engaged to a baronet of ill-repute. Determining to watch over her, the doctor is ill-adjusted to life and loses interest in his work and maintaining his high standards of life. His mother is his only other close attachment.

On a night of blizzard the doctor finds the dead body of the baronet on a rural road after he has learned that his love had married bigamously and was ruined in the eyes of the world. Inviting her to his home as a refuge, he discovers that she has gone temporarily insane from post-parturition mania, is carrying the gun with which the baronet was shot, and needs careful attention if she is to recover. Arranging for nurses and confiding in his mother, a convalescence is secured.

Believing the worst, the doctor takes his mother and the girl to Spain, hoping to evade the authorities. While there a newspaper brings news of the prosecution of a man for the murder, and the doctor and the girl rush back to England to save the innocent man. They discover, however, that he was the actual killer, and are able to settle in England to a good family life.

A woman whom the baronet had wronged and who had borne him children complicates the plot because she declares she knows what had happened, though she will not divulge what she knows because she wanted revenge on the baronet. This woman had jumped to the same erroneous conclusion that motivated the actions of the doctor and the girl, so the reader is as convinced as the principal characters of their anxiety and danger.

Apart from the old-fashioned style of narration, this novel is well written and interesting.



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CELEBRATING  
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**FirstCity Trust**

The Magical Miss Mittens; Illustrated by Mary Davies;  
Toronto, Macmillan of Canada (1970, Lyn Waddell) 233p.

This author's books are popular in school libraries, and this children's book will likely find favor there.

Colin, Kate and Jimsy Bigelow stay with their grandparents in Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia, while their parents from London, Ontario are on a trip to Europe. Jimsy is able to see a friend he calls John who is not visible to his brother and sister, and whom they later identify as one of the men from the past whom they see when time-travelling under the guidance of Miss Mittens. She inhabits the old Crocker place, and gives to Jimsy a pair of mittens to replace others he has lost, and he uses these to assist him in opening doors to past scenes and to come back to the Crocker mansion after their adventures.

The story is slight, concerned mainly with describing the life of a storekeeper, his wife, their grandchildren, and the friends and acquaintances they make. But Miss Mittens invites them to adventures which make this an episodic novel like John Buchan's "The Lake of Cold". Opening doors on the second floor of her home, the children visit the year 1606 where they find Jimsy's friend John, one of the names of Biencourt de Poutrincourt, son of Baron de Poutrincourt a companion of Samuel de Champlain; 1000 A.D. when Vikings land on the east coast under Leif; King John signing Magna Carta; elephants and slaves in Africa; Abraham Lincoln playing as a boy; scenes at the death of Socrates; Jacques Cartier at St. Malo in 1534; a child nearly left behind when the Acadians were banished from Nova Scotia; Shakespeare handling a stage production in England; Captain Kidd burying treasure on Oak Island; and a return again to Jimsy's friend Biencourt.

Miss Mittens is the children's nickname for Miss Crocker, who is apparently omniscient, able to signal them by psychic and material means whenever the time is propitious for them to journey in time, and is able to exist without food, but orders from Gramps Bigelow's general store just to keep people from commenting. She is identified by the children as from the past, and they are sad when their friend Mr. Spinney, who has bought the Crocker home as that of his ancestors, suggests that he may have to ask Miss Crocker to leave. She, however, vanishes with apparent foreknowledge, thus saving embarrassment.

Quite similar to Buchan's book in presenting scenes from history by means of fantasy, this book qualifies as a juvenile fantasy novel.

See also Wuorio: Return of the Viking.



Cook, Robin

The Tenants of Dirt Street; London, MacGibbon & Kee  
(1971) 233p.

Lord Eylau is dependent on his mother for money, so is constrained to accept a job as host in a sex club when the wife of an Anglican vicar insists that he have available a thousand pounds if she is to run off with him. She exudes sex, and he is so powerfully attracted to her, even though she is blind and heavy, that they have relations in her home hours after their first meeting.

The vicar's two teen-aged sons have run wild because of his permissiveness, and he seeks help from his wife when his drinking causes him to be banished from his living, ostensibly on behalf of the boys. She ends up with Viper, leader and owner of a group of companies controlling sex clubs, and Lord Eylau reflects that it will be a battle royal for control.

This modern novel is extremely well written, and the back of the jacket indicates that the author has written a novel called A State of Denmark portraying England in the near future.



Cook, William Wesley (A. M., M.D.)

Practical Lessons in Hypnotism and Autosuggestion; to which has been added Autosuggestion Applied to Selling; New York, Wiley Book Company (1901, Thompson & Thomas; 1924, Stanton & Van Vliet Co., 1927, publishers) 272p.

This is a comprehensive exposition which accepts phenomena of ESP and gives good psychological training in addition to the medical aspects. It is a popular rather than scientific book.

As in so many books published at the turn of the century, the contents page descriptions are copied at the head of each chapter, so these should be read, They substitute for an index.

Chester D. Cuthbert

March 2, 2001



# CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA



Cooke, C. E., and van Vogt, A. E.

The Hypnotism Handbook; Borden Publishing Company, Alhambra  
California, 1965 (1956, authors); Appendix; ; References; Bibli-  
ography; 2nd Edition, 10th printing 252p.

This handbook detailed the actual words to be used by the  
hypnotist in assuring the patient of success in curing illnesses.  
I did not finish reading it before lending it to several relatives  
for their information, but am familiar with its teachings.

Danny McGrath obtained this book for me in trade for van Vogt  
book on the Money Man.

Jean Bordeaux, James M. Hixson and Richard N. Clark wrote  
items of their specialties included in this book. I was amused by  
a suggestion that bowels should be eliiminated after each meal.

For the beginner, this is a good book.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
January 18, 2004

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# CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Cooke, Ivan (Editor)

The Return of Arthur Conan Doyle; Liss, Hampshire, England, The White Eagle Publishing Trust, 1968 (2nd Edition reprint, September, 1968 (October, 1963); earlier editions under the v.t. Thy Kingdom Come 203p.

Through the mediumship of Grace Cooke and the control White Eagle, this book summarizes the teachings of the spirit of Doyle since his death in 1930. Admitting that his view of the spirit life was in some respects faulty during his lifetime, Doyle still presents an afterlife of progression through stages to higher levels which is not greatly different from the teachings through other mediums.

Grace Cooke was not personally acquainted with Doyle, but assumed many of his characteristic expressions and gestures while entranced. White Eagle has presented more teachings now available in other volumes published by the Trust.

Although it would be difficult to object to the future of love, peace, and comradeship forecast by these teachings, it is boring to read so many vague descriptions which convey not much more than the idea that thought creates surroundings and environment for the spiritual life. Doyle's own Pheneas Speaks is likewise vague, indicative of undue reliance on guides for advice on daily living, and a withdrawal from mundane affairs.

Nevertheless, this book is well written and the editor is openly accepting of the testimony received through his wife.

Of interest primarily to spiritualists, this is also an important adjunct to Doyle's biographical material.

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**FirstCity Trust**

Cooper, Frederic Taber

Some American Story Tellers; Illustrated; New York,  
Henry Holt and Company (1911); Bibliography; Index 388p.

This is an excellent volume of critical essays on 14 writers. I have books by all of them, but have not read Churchill, Phillips, Herrick and Wister. Of these I think Herrick and Wister might appeal, but I should sample the other two.

Crawford, Wiggin, Chambers, Tarkington, "O. Henry", and possibly Wister, are mainly important for their popular appeal; Norris, Bierce, Glasgow, Herrick, Wharton, Atherton, and possibly Churchill and Phillips for American history or sociology.

The bibliography and index should be of great use in guiding me to Cooper's selection of the most important works of the writers unfamiliar to me, as I respect his judgment on the basis of the reasons given in his text.

This is very definitely a book to be retained for reference.



This is an original novel which forecasts a state department devoted to the maximization of sexual experience. Women past fifty are enabled to apply for Service young men who will devote themselves for a period of two years, as a pre-paration for their own marriage; girls are allotted to men who survive heart attacks or evade them to an age when they are allowed sex-fulfillment, as their preparation for marriage.

Emma Beasley, a widow who has not been loved since her husband's death, is matched by computer with an unusually well-endowed partner with whom she is well pleased until he forsakes her for a teen-aged girl living in her apartment block. The teen-ager is claustrophobic, and dies when Emma manoeuvres her into her son's small bedroom; while the director of Sex dies just as he is about to fulfill his deferred sex-desires.

This novel is well-written and interesting, but as usual indicates that the ultimate result of devotion to sexual fulfillment is satiation and obsession, and final futility.





Cooper, William

Memoirs of a New Man; London, Melbourne, Toronto, Macmillan, 1966 277p.

An intelligent, intellectual, and mature novel about a group of scientists and civil servants heading the National Power Board, this book is mainly of interest for its urbane and humorous narration.

Sir Jack Carteret, happily married, with a married son and an 18-year-old daughter, and one granddaughter, is not happy about the Chairman of the N.P.B., whom he wishes to be replaced by his friend, second in command, but not in the Chairman's favor. The story is made up of the manouvring and intrigue, the character conflicts, and the family developments of Carteret, and is well and clearly told.

My main reaction to this book is the realization of how ill-at-ease and out of place I would feel in the company of the characters, many of them likable, but all intelligent and capable. I can admire this book, but it is too much taken up with social events and personalities, and not adequately with psychological motivations, to appeal to my particular interests.



Cooper-Oakley, I (sabel)

The Comte de St. Germain: The Secret of Kings; London, The Theosophical Publishing House Limited, (1927, 1912), xvi plus 249p., Bibliography

Although this partial biography of St. Germain obviously entailed much research, it devotes much more space to his activities in the social and political movements of his time than to his occult and masonic interests.

His mystifications, his apparent wealth, especially in jewels, his claims to agelessness, his sycophantic adulation of royalty and nobility despite his apparent acceptance in high society (though often deprecated there as a fool), and his reputation in some respects as a sage and in others as a charlatan, make it impossible to form any definite opinion of his character. Even his birthdate given as 1712 appears to be incorrect; and his having been seen in 1813, apparently no older, supports Lang's attribution "The Deathless".

The text supports the claim that St. Germain taught Cagliostro, and was known to Casanova.

An interesting, but ultimately unsatisfactory biography.



Cordelier, Jeanne

"The Life": Memoirs of a French Hooker; New York, Avon Books (#45609), (January, 1980), (1978, Viking Penguin, Inc. 1976, Librairie Hachette) 376p.

Although the name of the protagonist varies throughout the book, this is alleged to be the autobiography of the author, and it appears to be an accurate portrayal of the prostitute's degradation, fears, intimidation, slavery, and ultimate destruction, still hoping for rehabilitation and a normal family life.

There is no attempt to use pornographic technique in the writing of this book: it is a realistic presentation of the facts of prostitution. I am inclined to think that it will form a reference work for sociologists.

Well written, mincing no words, it is worthwhile.



# 1982 ALL-CANADA CONVENTION

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

## REGISTRATION FORM EXPLANATION

This year there is a Women's Retreat prior to the Convention itself. The Mennonite Brethren Bible College is available Tuesday night for those wishing to arrive early for this event.

A. Registration ... We hope you will find this self explanatory. Please note separate registration for Encounter Groups. There is no Convention registration fee for children under eleven years. (See Day Care).

B. Accomodation... The Menmonite Brethren Bible College is passing along the \$8.00 per person bedding charge, in which they receive no profit. This bedding is for the entire time, regardless of how long you stay.

Children twelve years and under who stay with adults, will be provided with a mattress at one half the \$4.50 adult price... i.e. \$2.25 per night and their linen is \$8.00

C. Meals... For catering purposes, the Mennonite Brethren Bible College must have an accurate count in advance of the Convention.

You will note there is no supper being served on Saturday at the Convention site. The cafeteria will be closed on Sunday morning. Home Street church will be providing a light complimentary lunch following the Sunday morning worship service.

For children under twelve, all meals are half adult price, with exception of those three years and under, whose meals are free.

The C.C.W.F. luncheon has been combined with the C.C.M.F. luncheon because of our special speaker, Dr. Jean Woolfolk.

D. Child Care.... The cost of \$4.00 per day includes two snacks and a noon meal, and the child's care after breakfast until 5.00 p.m.



Corelli, Marie

Barabbas; Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co. (1893,  
1901, 1921) 480p.

Commencing on the day of Passover, with Barabbas freed unexpectedly from prison, the novel extends for two weeks, mainly concentrating on the events from crucifixion to resurrection.

Contrary to Brooker's "The Robber", Barabbas is said to love Judith, is merely one of her lovers the principal of whom is Caiaphas, and when he learns the true character of this sister of Judas, still loves her. Judith's beauty is said to be the greatest of any in Israel; she loves no man except her brother. By Caiaphas she is enjoined to persuade Judas to betray Jesus; and when Judas commits suicide by hanging himself, Judith goes mad, uses her jewelled dagger to cut the rope from Judas's neck, and with the dagger tries to slay Caiaphas. The elder Iscariot is portrayed as a usurer, wealthy, but with only his children to love; Judas as well as Judith is comely.

Pilate's wife is called Justitia; she is warned by a dream that her husband's surrender of Jesus to the mob will end in his committing suicide by drowning.

Following his release from prison, Barabbas is befriended by a mysterious, all-knowing, and prophetic stranger of great wealth named Melchior who admits that he was a King when he was younger, but gave up in favor of freedom. Melchior and Simon of Cyrene (who carried Christ's cross to Calvary) head for Egypt after Barabbas dies, again in prison and falsely accused of helping to steal Jesus's body from the tomb donated by Joseph of Arimathea, and of trying to kill Caiaphas.

Barabbas, despite questioning of Mary the Magdalen, Mary Mother of Christ, Joseph, his nominal father, who denies fatherhood and explains that he looked upon Mary as someone holy and that his other children were by an earlier wife, and the disciples, is convinced of Jesus' divinity only by personal experience of Christ's appearing to him at the death of Joseph and later before his death in prison.

This novel is fantasy to a great extent, dwelling upon miraculous flowers, storms, bird-songs, imposed trances, angels, earthquakes, cures, and other manifestations of superstitious confirmation of the events beyond mortal understanding, but there is no doubt of the author's worship of Christ and her dislike of the church later called Christian.

Barabbas is said to have been employed with Judas by a jeweller whom he robbed in order to give to Judith; and is said to have murdered one of Judith's lovers because he had boasted openly of having obtained her favors. One of the thieves who died beside Christ had been his cell-mate in prison named Hanan. Neither of the thieves who died is said to have been in Barabbas' service as a soldier, or to have helped him in insurrection.



Corey, Lewis,

The House of Morgan: A Social Biography of the Masters of Money; New York; Grosset & Dunlap (1930, G. Howard Watt), Bibliography, Notes, Index; Illustrated 479p.

This is a well-researched and valuable reference volume which should be used in conjunction with The Robber Barons.

Like Josephson, Corey is indignant about the power of these money grabbers, but insists that Morgan wanted power rather than money, and used that power efficiently; though contemptuous of the public interest and governmental authority. The ramifications of power were tremendous, and near the end of the book some space is devoted to the United Corporation, which was apparently organized by Morgan.

One has to admire the ability of these money barons who controlled vast enterprises and in many cases built them from very small beginnings. Their disregard of human values is, however, dismaying.



Dhu Singh, a Hindu mystic, inspires Lebedoff, the Russian Communist leader with belief that by mass concentration on any idea it is possible to bring about desired events. His clever mind enables him to assume leadership of a revolt in England, and he arranges that a Railway Strike will be the signal for revolution under direction of the "Twelve" whom he governs.

Dr. John Calvar, whose physiological researches have made him prominent, meets Lebedoff who uses his mastery of music to pose as a Composer and teacher. Lebedoff reveals to Calvar, in hope of winning Calvar as a convert, who he is and details of his secret organisation.

Calvar is attracted by blonde Hilda Murray, daughter of Thorne Murray, financial genius who leads the Capitalist side. Discovering that Murray is an idealist like Lebedoff, he tries to bring the two together, only to learn that each is firm in permitting the Revolution to proceed.

Calvar loses interest in Hilda when he is told by Mary Durand, daughter of his old professor, of her love for him. He has always loved her, but had seen no sign of such feeling in her for him. She has felt bound by duty to take care of her father.

Unable to betray his friend Lebedoff, and encouraged by Murray who finally understands Calvar's enlightened view, Calvar addresses a public meeting and urges the rebellious labor forces to resolve the struggle "each in his own mind" rather than by force. The meeting is disbanded, the urge to Revolution is dissipated, and Dhu Singh, who has been Calvar's servant, prepares to leave London with Lebedoff.

Calvar and Mary are united under guidance of Dhu Singh, and Mary comes to understand that her own life must rule over her sense of duty to her father.

The mystic beliefs of Dhu Singh are somewhat those of AE in "The Interpreters", and the revolutionary plot reminds me of "The Nameless Order" by Dargun. These two books might have been sufficient to have inspired Cornell's novel, which is quite interesting and well written, but whose ending as a solution of the difficulty between Capital and Labor is weak and anticlimactic.

The character and beliefs of Dhu Singh are sufficient to place this as a fantasy novel.





Cosgrove, Edmund C.

The Terror of the Tar Sands; Illustrated by Don Morrison; Toronto, Burns & MacEachern Limited 135p.

This second episode in the adventures of the Windigo Wings flyers refers briefly to the earlier book WINDIGO WINGS. Chuck Johnson, Indian bush pilot, becomes suspicious of two hunters Sommers and Duncan, when his friend Billy Paul an Indian storekeeper is found seriously and mysteriously burned, but his plane is forced down by a beam of light which melts metal, and he is tracked by enemies through the bush with only a survival kit from the plane to aid him. His partner Grant Mackenzie, with their pilot, 16-year-old Ricky Trudel, and nurse Madeleine Boisvert, come to his rescue with the Mounties and the Air Force, but Chuck is able to save Ricky from death at the hands of the Indian chief Crow, who has plotted with raiders of the tar sands in Athabaska territory to have his band vacate their reservation for fear of the Windigo (which is actually a huge drilling machine with laser beams, intended to make a hole into which the oil from the sands may be stored). Sommers and Duncan are spies and employees of the Syndicate exploiting the tar sands, and most actively plot and act against the Windigo Wings flyers and the Indian band.

A fairly good juvenile novel, but only fantasy if the technology of the laser beam is beyond the capability of present-day science. I would not consider this to be science fiction or fantasy.





Windigo Wings; Illustrated by the Author; Burns & Mac-  
Eachern Limited (1970), (1967) 140p.

This juvenile adventure story tells of Grant Mackenzie, Chuck Johnson, his Cree Indian partner, and their clerk and apprentice-flyer Ricky Trudel, arranging to attend in Toronto an air-show and exhibition of antique aircraft. A friend of theirs is attacked en route by a mysterious monoplane which has the ability to land on short runways; and they learn that he was a secret agent in danger of discovery. Before he can divulge his information, Grant kills him accidentally when he fires what were supposed to be blank cartridges in a mock air battle.

Determined to avenge his friend, Grant agrees to use his Windigo Wings equipment and personnel to help investigate a mysterious foreigner who controls a uranium mine at Elliot Lake. By atomic power, Ameer is able to move a section of forest over an airstrip, thus hiding his runway, by means of which he imports slave labor illegally from Europe, exposing the laborers to radiation poisoning. Ameer's ambition is to gain sufficient power to rival the U. S. and U. S. S. R., and rule the world. He has already improved concentration of the uranium he exports, thus moving it easily without detection.

Co-operating with Government agents, Grant finds that Trudel has tried to get romantic with a girl who turns out to be the sister of his friend who was killed, and an agent also. The girl is kidnapped by Ameer's men, and imprisoned in a cell with laborer prisoners; feeling that the Government agents are not moving fast enough to rescue her, Grant and Chuck make an advance attempt, penetrate Ameer's stronghold disguised as his guards, and make the rescue, but with the Government agents' help.

Though possibly involving a technology in advance of the time the book was published, and thus classifiable as science fiction, this is mainly an adventure story.



Coué, Emile

My Method, Including American Impressions; Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1923 (1923, publishers 201p.

The first half of this book details Coué's explanation of a simple method of curing functional disorders and aiding organic diseases by simple suggestion without the direction of a hypnotist.

The second half of the book describes his impressions of the country and citizens of the United States during a short visit. His comparison of conditions with those in Europe flattered the new world and offered few suggestions for improvement.

The text covers little more than half the pages in the book because many pages are blank between chapters. The book was, I think, published mainly to extend Coué's popularity and to alert people to the simplicity of enlisting the imagination to effect cures of sometimes longstanding disabilities.

n

He mentions Charles Baudouin's Suggestion and Autosuggestion as a detailed psychological exposition of his views, so I am in process of reading that book.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
February 16, 2000



CUSTOMER  
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Coulson, Juanita

The Death God's Citadel; New York, Ballantine Books (#28089)  
(1980, author); Glossary; 380p.

This novel of fantastic adventure is patterned after Robert E. Howard, Fritz Leiber and other "swords and sorcery" fantasies but is clearly visualized and very well written. The glossary is an indication of the scope of a uniquely imagined world, without technology and subject to magic and sorcery.

Having taught his son sorcery to the extent that he becomes a rival, Vraduir believes that he has killed him and his friends and turned his son's closest companion into a were-beast, thus maintaining his supremacy and lust for power. The son Tyrus escapes with his friend Erejzan and the two travel as amusers with the assistance of Tyrus's sorcery and Erejzan's acrobatic ability through Couredh ruled by a warrior queen Jathelle with whom Tyrus falls inlove as does Erejzan with her younger and more beautiful sister. Knowing that Vraduir threatens the realm, Tyrus tries to warn Jathelle against a hunting expedition, but she disregards the warning and the two friends with the help of a king of thieves rescue her. She insists on joining the friends in their search for Vraduir, and most of the story deals with the sorcerous contest between Tyrus and his father, ending with the father's defeat in the Death God's citadel.

Romantic fulfilment for the two friends and their women, and a future free of Vraduir's menace, bring a happy conclusion.

This novel must have entailed much thought and work. I was constantly thinking that it read like a sequel, and that the writing was superior to the story it conveyed.

To balance the limitations of sorcery with a logical description of its powers is extremely difficult. I was constantly trying to think whether the author was maintaining this balance; and could not decide. Occasionally it seemed that the powers should have accomplished more, and that the enemy's powers were too great even with the intervention of the Death God, but I really could not decide.

This is well above the average novel of its kind.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
August 15, 1995

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CELEBRATING  
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**FirstCity Trust**



Coulson, Juanita

Space Trap; Don Mills, Ontario, Harlequin Enterprises Limited; Laser Books (#72020), (1976, author) 191p.

Ken Farrell, apprentice to Captain Zachary, is apprehensive that his superior may be violating regulations as they approach Planet NE 592; and he experiences a vision of a girl who warns that they should not land. Fearing hallucinations, he says nothing to Zachary, and they land.

They find that the girl is a member of an alien culture with telepathic powers which is contending for possession of the planet with the original explorers from earth, led by an insane Noland Eads, a former comrade of Zachary. Zachary's mission is to find Eads and to bring him back to Earth.

The romance between Ken and Thayenta develops and assists in clarifying to contending parties and reconciling the situation.

The aliens have developed telepathic influence to the extent that they can attract any space vehicle to the planet's surface, and this constitutes the "Trap" of the title.

Although interesting and well-written, this is space adventure without depth of character or ideas.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
August 31, 1995

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**FirstCity Trust**

Coulson, Juanita

Unto the Last Generation; Don Mills, Ontario, Laser Books  
(#72011); (1975, author) 190p.

A virus has made impossible human reproduction and the hopelessness of any future has led to anarchy and a fight between the different surviving generations for scarce food and resources. A dispute between a young and charismatic politician and the General father of the scientist wife of a life sciences researcher causes problems which are resolved finally because of the discovery of an eight year old girl whose existence suggests that there must be people immune to the virus. This girl has been supplying food to a group of helpless elders living in an abandoned library who try to preserve its contents from vandalism and destruction.

Resources proving insufficient to enable the life sciences laboratory to continue, it is removed to join a cloning laboratory where it is learned that artificial insemination between its director and his female assistant has produced a living fetus. Hope is increased when a small number of immune adults and children is found and united with the girl and her guardians.

I was bothered by the illogical beginning of this novel. The possibility of an eight year old girl supplying a dozen adults with food when food is scarce, and without her existence being recognized by anyone until the life sciences couple did so, defied my belief.

However, the importance to humanity of the possibility of extinction makes this novel worthwhile; it is well written and with some knowledge of human reproduction.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
August 23, 1995

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**FirstCity Trust**

Coulson, Robert; and DeWeese, Gene

Gates of the Universe; Don Mills, Ontario, Laser Books  
(#72004); (1975, authors) 190p.

The Laser books were generally considered as introductory to the field of science fiction, and although I purchased many as a part of my collection, this is the first of them I have read.

While operating a bulldozer Ross Allen encounters a smooth buried room which transports him to an alien world. His foreman dies and he enlists a saurian and a strong and beautiful woman of the new world to assist him in fighting other aliens. When victory ensues Ross and the lovely Kari are united.

The problems and difficulties of coping with an alien environment constitute the body of the story. Communication is facilitated by telepathic means too easily enlisted, but making the story more comprehensible.

Rooms like the one encountered are gates to other places in the universe, and reminded me of The Blind Spot.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
August 23, 1995

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**FirstCity Trust**

Coulson, Robert

To Renew the Ages; Don Mills, Ontario, Harlequin Enterprises Limited; (Laser Books #72026); (1976, author) 190p.

In a post-holocaust America, a giant scout whose face has been horribly mauled by a grizzly bear, uses a cross-bow to shoot down a flying machine operated by a girl scout for a feminist settlement. Both are menaced by a brutal group of roving men, and the story is about their adventures in escaping, with each learning to respect the other.

An additional menace is a group mind of ants which attracts by telepathy and preys on the wanderers.

This is really a love story developed by danger and adventure and reveals the author as a gentleman. Very little fantasy, and much practical knowledge is displayed in the course of the story.

Chester D. Cuthbert  
August 31, 1995



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**FirstCity Trust**

Coulter, Stephen

Damned Shall Be Desire: The Passionate Life of Guy de Maupassant; London, Pan Books Ltd (#X85), (1961), (1958, Author), (Jonathan Cape Ltd.) 319p.

This book differs from Kirkbride's in naming Hermine de Nouy (rather than Helene); it does not blame her for the designed infection of Maupassant, and it makes her one of the few women with him at the last. His younger brother Herve also died of paresis, and there is a suggestion that their mother had attacks of mental illness.

Although this is a fictionized biography, it seems to summarize the life and times of its subject accurately, if also sensationally. Maupassant is said to have declared a man between 18 and 40 years of age might have love affairs with 300 women, excluding casual sexual encounters; and this novel insists that women are the instigators of most affairs.

Flaubert was Maupassant's mentor, and Zola gave his funeral oration. Bourget is portrayed as jealous of the success of Maupassant, and insistent that he should ignore the underworld in favor of high society; but Maupassant discovered that society was artificial and that his best work dealt with the dregs of society.

This is a frightening and impressive portrayal of the degeneration of a genius into madness, and supplies the material in his life which inspired stories like The Horla.

I know that I have the hardcover edition, but it was not at hand when I was reading this paperback.



Cowie, Peter

Seventy Years of Cinema; New York, Castle Books (1969,  
Cowie); Illustrated; Index 287p.

This is a good critical review of the principal movies beginning in 1895, with incidental historical sidelights on their development during the years to 1967. The index makes it a useful reference, and the illustrations are well produced. I failed to make notes of some items of special interest but there are bound to be many more as my viewing of some of the movies is extended.



Coy, Harold

The Real Book about Gold; Illustrated by Harper and Anita Johnson; Garden City Books, Garden City, New York, (1954) (Franklin Watts, Inc.); Index 222p.

Although ostensibly written for boys of 8 to 14 years of age, I found this book an interesting outline of the role played by gold in the western world. The fascination felt by men for gold; its use and abuse throughout history; and even its monetary role, are sketched.

Pages 153-65 are devoted to an account of Jack London's adventures in early life and in Alaska and the Yukon. I do not know of any other sketch which covers the ground in such detail.

The small percentage of gold recoverable from most gold-bearing ore confirms my view that gold is underpriced. Certainly when the cost of recovering it exceeds its market value, and when governments are subsidizing its production, and forbidding its possession in monetary form by the public, its market value is only artificially controlled.







